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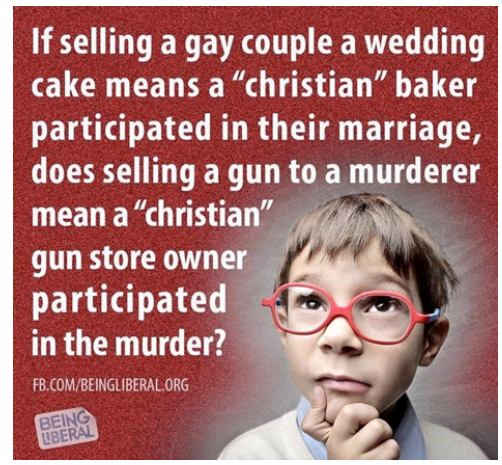
If selling a gay couple a wedding cake means a "christian" baker participated in their marriage, does selling a gun to a murderer mean a "christian" gun store owner participated in the murder?
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MAY | JUNE 2015

Whoops: Indiana's Backlash Could Happen In PA

UPON GOV. MIKE PENCE'S SIGNING THAT STATE'S RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT LAST MARCH, ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE. 3,000 PROTESTERS ASSEMBLED MARCH 28 NEAR THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE INDIANA STATE HOUSE IN OPPOSITION TO THE LAW.

How Pennsylvania's Law Differs from Indiana

The Pennsylvania law was passed in 2002, and has been used by individuals seeking to protect their religious practices – from Amish farmers resisting a requirement that they install electric power to run a public sewer they didn't want to use, to home school parents who objected on religious grounds to state oversight of their children's education, to a Muslim police officer who wanted to wear a head scarf under her uniform cap. The law also allows religious non-profits to seek exemption from local laws, like the Christian church groups

Continued on page 5

By Frank Pizzoli

"The truth is that people in Pennsylvania are shocked to learn that it is still legal in our state to discriminate against gay and transgender people," Ted Martin, executive director, Equality PA, explains as he reflects on what happened last March in Indiana when that state passed a Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

"So what went on in Indiana helps us make sure that people know we need to update Pennsylvania's discrimination laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity," Martin says.

Martin note that "The intense and severe backlash against Indiana also serves as an example that discrimination is not the way to move your state forward economically, and I think that our leaders in the state capitol will pay attention to that message."

Economic interests respond with a roar last March when Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed a Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The business community advanced the issue of LGBT civil rights in a few days beyond what the movement itself has been able to accomplish in many years. They relied on the policy Martin underscored: That discrimination is bad for business. Eventually, the law was amended to make clear it did not allow for LGBT discrimination. Critics of the law saw the measure as a backdoor way for religious groups and individuals to deny goods and services to the LGBT community by claiming their religious beliefs were burdened to do so.

March 4 Gov. Tom Wolf in an address to the state legislature recognized that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination at work, in housing and public accommodations. "The companies and countries that are thriving in today's global economy are those that are committed to diversity, inclusion, and fairness," he said.

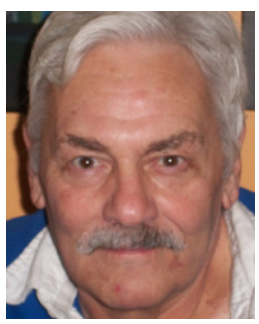
At press time, activity continued in Louisiana, Texas and Florida where state lawmakers were seeking to pass religious freedom measures despite objections from LGBT advocates and the business community.

Pennsylvania passed a Religious Freedom Protection

Continued on page 25

LOCAL FOLLOW UP:

From Adoption to Marriage



Folby

By Central Voice

In the 2013 *Central Voice Pride Edition*, John Folby and "Gregory" shared with readers their solution to Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage. John adopted Gregory, his partner of 44 years.

For one person to adopt another, including same-sex couples, a hearing is required. Dauphin County Judge Bruce F. Bratton heard John's plea that he be allowed to adopt his partner.

Adoption allowed them to avoid stiff tax penalties because their relationship, like all same-sex couples, had no basis in state law. Adoption reduced the tax from 15% to 4%. "We wanted to protect ourselves from higher inheritance taxes that heterosexual couples do no incur upon the death of one or other spouse," Folby explained.

Continued on page 18

PRIDE 3x's

Region Boasts Trio of Events

The region boasts three Pride events with York Equality following its inaugural year with a move to a larger setting due to the success of last year's event. For 2015, events are scheduled for Lancaster, Harrisburg, and York.

LANCASTER PRIDE

First event of the season is Lancaster Pride, Sat., June 20, Noon to 5 p.m. in Buchanan Park, named after President James Buchanan who is is thought by some historians to have been gay.

Continued on page 26

Support for Lancaster Pride pgs 13-15

What's up with the Warholas? pg 21

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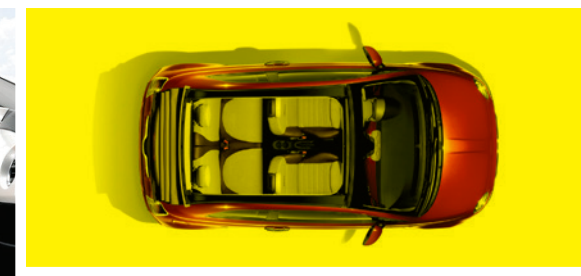

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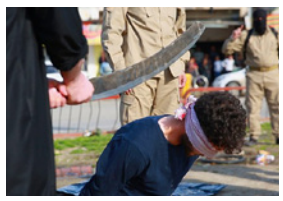
Political Update

• Finland President Signs Marriage Law

Finland's President Sauli Niinistö has signed a same-sex marriage bill which that will make marriage gender neutral and takes effect in 2017. This is the first piece of legislation that has been brought to Parliament by the public, under the citizens' initiative, and approved as the law of the land. LGBTI rights activists have hailed the change as not only historic, but a symbolic, move to equality. While the country has allowed gay couples to enter into registered partnerships in 2002, over 160,000 people signed a petition calling on Parliament to legalize same-sex marriage. Finland is the last Nordic country to legalize same-sex marriage.

• ISIS Beheads 3 Gay Men?



Chilling images emerged in March of three men accused of homosexuality and blasphemy being forced to their knees and publicly beheaded by a sword-wielding Islamic State executioner. Photographs of the barbaric murders show the blindfolded men kneeling in the centre of what appears to be a traffic roundabout with a crowd of people looking on as a masked executioner stands by with a long, rusty blade. The images did not show the claimed beheadings and their authenticity could not be independently verified.

• Irish Referendum Marks Countdown

Deputy Prime Minister An Taoiseach's announcement that his preferred date for the Marriage Equality Referendum is May 22 is "monumental" and marks a countdown to equality for all Irish citizens says the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network and Marriage Equality. Mark Kelly, Director, Irish Council for Civil Liberties said, "Irish people are being given a chance to create an Ireland where our citizens are valued equally. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for first time voters and the established electorate to end the discrimination which many lesbian and gay people living in Ireland continue to experience."

• Russia's Bid to Curtail LGBT Benefits Fails

BuzzFeed World News Editor Hayes Brown reports that a Russian proposal to cut benefits to the spouses of some LGBT employees at the United Nations failed in a vote that was far less close than opponents of the draft had feared. Russia had brought the vote at the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, which handles administrative and budgetary affairs, to consider the question of whether UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon overstepped his authority in expanding the number of employees eligible for benefits for their same-sex spouse. The Russian draft was rejected with 43 votes in favor to 80 opposed and 37 abstentions. Last year, Ban issued a bulletin — an official statement of policy in how the UN would conduct internal affairs — that Russia was seeking to overturn. Previously, that resource was only extended to employees who hailed from a country where that union was recognized, giving an effective veto to states who disagreed with the policy. Under the new bulletin, all same-sex couples married in a place where it was legal would have their union recognized.

• Slovenia Approves Same-Sex Marriage

Slovenian lawmakers have approved same-sex marriage and child adoption by gay couples amid opposition from conservative groups and the Catholic Church. Parliament voted 51:28 to pass changes to the family law allowing homosexual couples to marry and adopt children. Slovenia in the past allowed same-sex partnership union, but without the right to child adoption.

• Switzerland Votes to Protect from Prejudice

The Swiss Parliament voted 103 to 73 for a law to protect LGBTI people from discrimination. While it is not allowed, 54% of Swiss people support same-sex marriage. The measure ensures nobody is targeted with hate speech and discrimination on the basis of their sexual or gender identity. It was an amendment to a law that already protected people of different races or faiths.

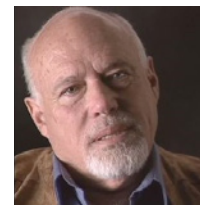
• Cyber-bullying Bill Introduced

US Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the top Democrat on the Senate's education committee, wants to require colleges to establish policies prohibiting cyber-bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Murray, along with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) and Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), recently unveiled legislation they say would help mitigate harassment of LGBT students by requiring universities to adopt policies banning students from using online communication to taunt their peers. The lawmakers point to the death of Rutgers University student Tyler Clementi, who committed suicide in 2010 after being a victim of cyberbullying, as an example of what they hope to prevent. The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2015 would force colleges taking federal money - which is nearly all of them - to establish policies that prohibit harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or religion.

• White House: Conversion Therapy Ban

The White House now formally supports a ban on "ex-gay" sexual orientation conversion therapy for minors. The move follows a "We the People" petition signed earlier this year by more than 120,000 people. The petition avenue represents a way the Obama administration responds to issues brought before the White House by citizens who mount petition signings and then forward to administration officials. The formal response from the White House begins with a quotation from President Obama during his 2009 speech at the Human Rights Campaign national dinner where he called for building a society more accepting of LGBT youth.

• Openly gay Rev. Malcolm Boyd Dies at 91



Rev. Malcolm Boyd, an early leader in the push for a more LGBT inclusive Episcopal Church, passed away Friday in Los Angeles at the age of 91 from severe complications with pneumonia, the *Advocate* reports: Boyd was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1955, having left a career in film, TV, and radio production for the religious life, the Episcopal News Servicereports. As the 1950s gave way to the 1960s, he became an activist clergyman, advocating for racial integration and other social justice causes. He embraced the era's counterculture, speaking in coffeehouses and other unconventional venues, such as the Newport Jazz Festival and the Hungry I nightclub in San Francisco. At the latter he sometimes opened for politically outspoken comedian Dick Gregory. While many lauded Boyd's unusual approach to ministry, few of his fans — or members of the church hierarchy — were ready to embrace his homosexuality when he came out in 1976. Boyd is survived by his partner of over 30 years Mark Thompson. In 2004, the two had their relationship blessed in a church ceremony and in 2013 were legally married in California after Proposition 8 was struck down by the Supreme Court.

• Congressman Forgets to Renew Web site

A Republican state representative from Idaho, Paul Shepherd, a noted anti-gay force who wants to impeach any and all judges in favor of same-sex marriage in his state, made a clerical oopsie and didn't renew his control over PaulShepherdUSA.com. You should see it now. http://paulshepherdusa.com

• Transgender Inclusive Sorority Opens

Audrey Ferguson, left, and art history and English senior Lauren Ferguson are vice president and president of Gamma Rho Lambda. University of Texas at Austen students have established a campus colony of the national sorority Gamma Rho Lambda, the first queer-focused and transsexual-inclusive women's Greek society at the university, according to the organization's leadership. The sorority aims to combat issues regarding the status of queer women in mainstream society and within the LGBT community. The colony will also tackle issues of transphobia within the queer community, an occurrence which leads to the exclusion of transsexuals in spaces that ought to be trans-inclusive, Ferguson, who is also a columnist for *The Daily Texan,* said. (Photo by Zoe Fu, *Daily Texan* Staff)

• Transgenders Shouldn't Be Denied Service

Miranda Leitsinger, NBC.com, reports that new Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said transgender people shouldn't be prevented from serving in the U.S. military solely based on their gender identity, noting it should not "preclude" them from service. Carter made the comments at a town-hall event in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in response to a question from Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, a doctor, about transgender soldiers serving in an "austere environment" like the one in Kandahar. "(W)e want to make our conditions and experience of service as attractive as possible to our best people in our country. And I'm very open-minded about — otherwise about what their personal lives and proclivities are, provided they can do what we need them to do for us. That's the important criteria," Carter said. "I don't think anything but their suitability for service should preclude them."

• Reform Rabbis Appoint Gay President

The Central Conference of American Rabbis is the rabbinical arm of the Reform Judaism movement. At its recent 126th convention, Rabbi Denise Eger was appointed the organization's first openly gay president. A long-time leader in the LGBT and human rights community, she is one of the first openly gay leaders of any major religious organization. Additionally, the CCAR will release Mishkan HaNefesh, a new, more inclusive prayer book for the high holidays, as well as a new "rabbi's manual," which adopts new language that no longer differentiates or privileges straight weddings over gay weddings.

• Gay GOP Group Criticizes Iran Nuclear Talks

Log Cabin Republicans is urging Secretary of State John Kerry not to broker a deal with Iran over its nuclear programs. The conservative gay group ran a full-page ad in Roll Call that shows the silhouette of what appears to be a dead man hanging from a rope attached to a gallows. The spot also contains an image of two legs hanging in the air under the headline "Secretary Kerry: This is about more than nukes!" The ad continues: "Right now Iran is executing gay people and people merely suspected of being gay."

Continued on page 6

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PUBLISHED BY
PRESS AND JOURNAL INC.
20 South Union Street
Middletown, PA 17057
Subscriptions/Distribution 717-944-4628
www.pandjinc.com
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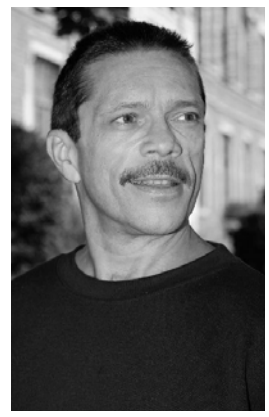
Identity *vs.* Policy Politics



Frank Pizzoli

The question of the hour is what will activists, advocates, and allies do when and if marriage becomes the law of the land in all 50 states. The US Supreme Court heard arguments April 28 and is expected soon to issue its opinion some say will be a final resolution to the civil rights issue.

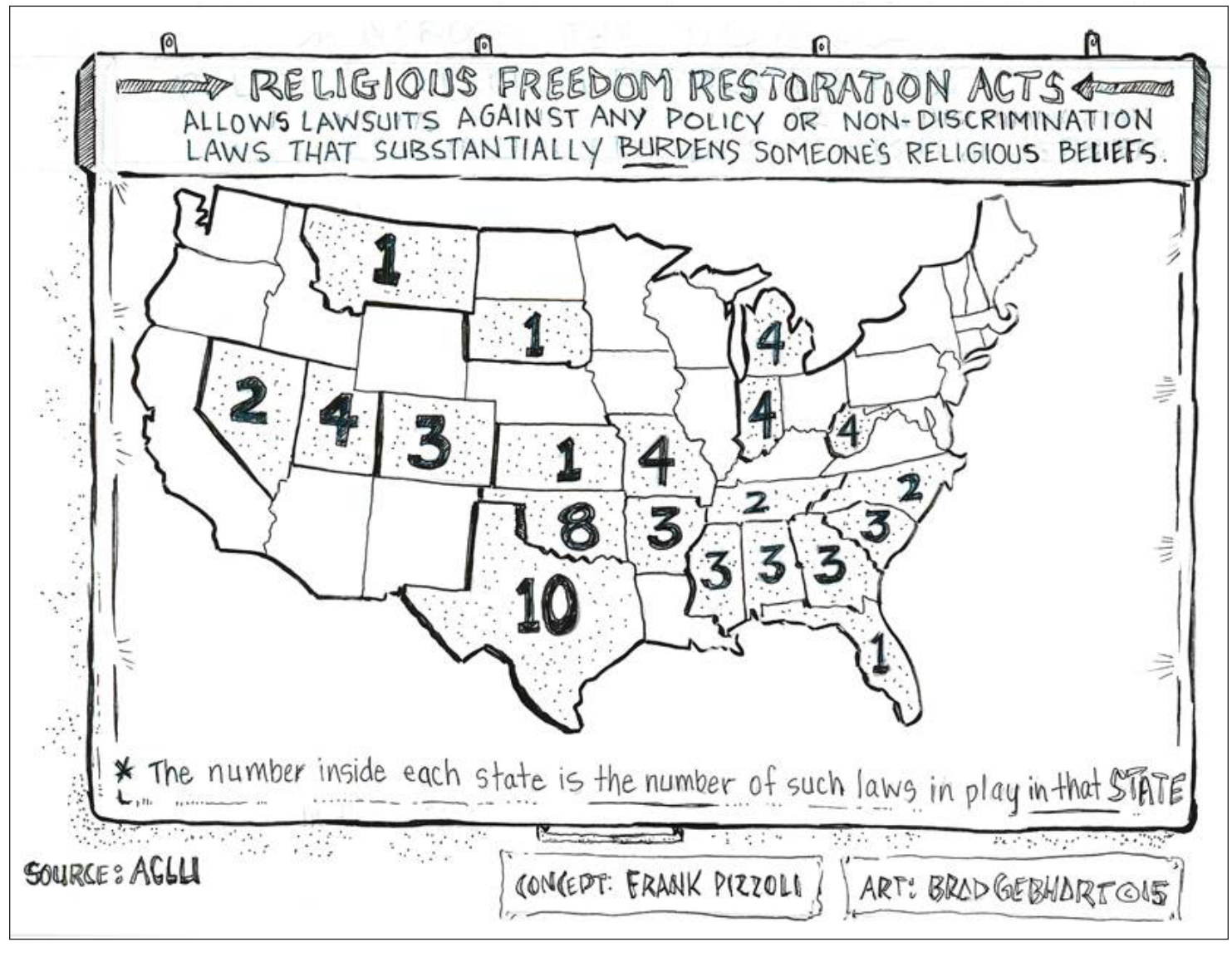
Don't Ask, Don't Tell has pretty much settled the Armed Forces issue. True, there remain implementation bottlenecks, but that's true with any sweeping change. There's no chance DADT will be reversed unless the US does evolve into a Christian Theocracy. And the jury's still out on that trend. The amusing part of the Religious Right's unsuccessful attempts to combine church and state in a nation founded on its separation is that they claim 'victimhood'. If someone disagrees with their belief system, they claim to be are measurably hurt. I'm thinking that's narcissism enflamed by Group Think.

Even though change is good, change threatens any entrenched group. I'm beginning to see why some activists prefer *Policy Politics* rather than the at-one-time-needed-but-perhaps-now-obsolete *Identity Politics*. By Policy Politics I mean ANY life not valued by the ruling paradigm should be included in any policy effort to create change.

Inclusion is not an appropriation of another group's power. Including the value of *all* the lives, lives that are routinely excluded in ways that create poverty, hatred or being treated as "other," can be reflected in "policies". Two people from completely different life circumstances - an inner city poor woman of any color and a rural, hanging by a thread man, of any color - are stronger fighting together for their inclusion in progressive policies than they are working alone. Or against one another.

Policy Politics means that the street level exercise of activism is not one of playing Totem Pole in which advocates for disparate injustices scramble to the top as The Most Aggrieved Group. Poor is poor. Hated is hated. Other is other. Those groups who make us poor, hated, and 'other' really enjoy when we play Identity Politics in such a way that we decimate each other rather than turn our coalesced energies on them. We prolong their power while diminishing our own.

In one recent discussion, after some loud, finger-pointing disagreement with Policy Politics versus Policy Politics, one discussant noted that perhaps the Occupy Movement's 99% came together because they realized the power of their collaborative effort against the one enemy they all faced - the 1%. They realized that it was all of them - in their sameness and endless cultural differentness - facing the same obstacle that drew the world's attention to their message. *Imagine* that. We each have a piece of the progressive puzzle. No one of us, no one group, can complete the picture of change without all the other pieces.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DELIGHTED

"Once again thank you so much for the great story you published. I was delighted to see the extensive coverage of the our Iraq report on the front page of the Central Voice. I am wondering if you got any feedback from your readers about the cover story."

- Hossein Alizadeh
Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

Hossein - Yes, CV did get feedback:
"Can't believe the quality level of LGBT coverage in Central Voice, here in the region and literally worldwide. The LGBT publication of record, that's for sure."

- Joel

BETTER

"Central Voice is looking and reading better than ever!"

- Kristen

QUOTE ME

"There won't be enough room for all the rings in this circus." That's what one reader said about the 2016 presidential election. He didn't want to be identified "because it's too early to get started on all this".

- Reader

AILING ALIG

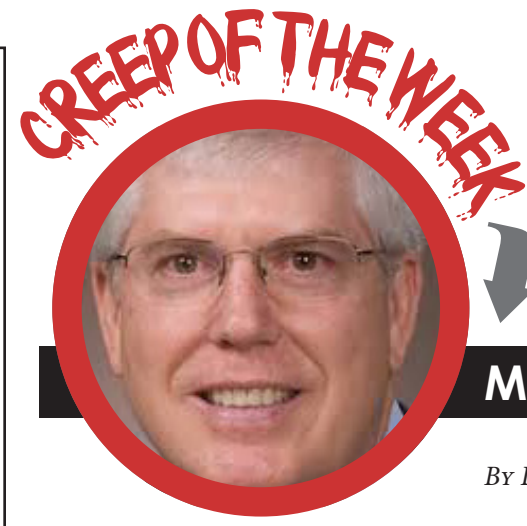
"I am writing regarding the interview with former club kid Michael Alig. I can't believe after 17 years in prison, he has no regret about murdering and dismembering someone over a drug dispute. Although 48, he still seems to think like a kid. His prison therapist may be right. He may just be a sociopath. When will the gay community stop excusing evil? Who cares about his fashion sense and club opinions? I am just a few years younger than Alig. I remember the AIDS scare and how hard it was to be gay back in the 80's. Being treated like a freak is no reason to waste your life on drugs and murder. That kind of behavior just confirms that gays and lesbians cannot lead responsible lives. Interview space was wasted on this man."

- Danielle Carbone

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION

"In the Jan-Feb 2015 edition of Central Voice several stories and your Publisher's Note cited the legally sanctioned anti-gay violence and oppression promulgated by various regimes in Africa, Russia, and the Middle East. Your editorial concluded: 'These times of variegated acceptance and violence require a multipronged analysis of what may create change.'
It is in that dialogue I wish to join with you and share these stories with others in my network. This leads me to the point of writing this letter. I'd like to encourage that local forces come together in order to offer assistance to gay refugees in need. I'd like to see if there are ways to bring gay refugees here to the US by offering them sanctuary. We cannot save the world but perhaps one or two gay people.
Are there others interested my idea? Churches? Community organizations? There are a number of LGBT Welcoming Congregations in the region but perhaps none alone could afford to offer everything a refugee may need. Is there individuals and groups out there willing to join resources in order to make this happen for one or two LGBT individuals now living in fear?
Anyone interested may contact Joe Burns at xactivist@earthlink.net. Thank you."

- Joe Burns



MAT STAVER

By D'Anne Witkowski

Like many a homo, I am anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling on whether or not my marriage is allowed by law or a Satan-spawn union of evil. Obviously, I am hoping for the former so I can do things like be on my wife's health insurance and be a legal parent to my own son. Or what right-wingers call "Destroying America."

And if one were to take a quick survey of right-wing punditry, it's pretty clear that they're very worried that the Supreme Court will rule that gays and lesbians across the land can Put a Ring On It Beyoncé-style.

Liberty Council's Mat Staver, for example, is encouraging widespread "civil disobedience" if he doesn't get his anti-gay way.

"Civil disobedience has a long and noble history in Western culture, and we will need a primer on it if, as seems likely, the Supreme Court rules against natural marriage in June," Staver writes in a column on BarbWire, a virtual town hall for terrible people and ideas.

He then invokes Martin Luther King Jr. because, you know, the fight against racial injustice and the fight against two ladies in wedding dresses is the same thing. "Merely because a legislature or a judge passes a law or issues an opinion does not make a law just," Staver writes. "To cite an extreme example, if you lived under the Nazi regime and the law required you to not hide or aid a Jew in any way, would you comply with Hitler or obey God?"

I totally agree with Staver that some laws are unjust. But then he goes and equates the Supreme Court with Hitler. And while he admits it's an extreme example, it really cannot be overstated that he is comparing the mass extermination of Jews with allowing same-sex couples to marry. It's not an analogy someone with a rational argument makes.

But I get it, he's trying to say that God wants same-sex couples to, like, uncouple or something and go forth and be straight. God hates fags and all that. Got it. But God doesn't make the laws because of that whole separation of Church and State thing we've got going in the U.S. Which Staver no doubt rejects.

And it's true that the Supreme Court sometimes makes terrible rulings. Staver uses the Dred Scott case as an example where, he writes, "the definition of 'human' was at issue. Now the definition of 'marriage' is at issue."

Uh, no. The Dred Scott case, where the court ruled that "blacks are inferior human beings," is not comparable to the marriage equality case. Such a claim minimizes the ugly history of racism in this country. Letting two men get legally married is not the same as legally oppressing an entire race of people.

If marriage equality becomes the law of the land, Staver writes, "The temptation for many will be to cave or compromise. The temptation even for the faithful will be to retreat into our churches and cloisters."

Presumably with plenty of canned goods, jugs of fresh water, plastic sheeting and duct tape.

"But what would happen if, instead of quiet retreat, many thousands of individuals, agencies, charities, churches and schools all came together, prepared, prayed and peacefully refused to countenance a Supreme Court decision that violates not only our highest legal document, but the laws of Nature and Nature's God?" Staver asks.

Nothing much, probably. I mean, for one thing, there are millions of people in this country. And "many thousands" break all kinds of laws, just and unjust, every day.

"Whatever the outcome, the hour is late. It's past time for us to get ready," Staver writes.

Staver and his ilk have had years to pray for the end of homosexuality. They're welcome to keep praying, but he's right. The time has passed.

Pennsylvania's Law Differs from Indiana

continued from page one

in Philadelphia that fought a local ban on feeding people in the parks.

Pennsylvania's RFPA allows people whose religious practices are threatened by state or local government regulations or laws to seek a court order exempting them from the regulation.

The Indiana law, unlike the Pennsylvania law, also allows for-profit corporations and other businesses to seek exemptions from local laws. It also, unlike the Keystone State's law, allows a person or business that brings a claim under the law to demand financial compensation from the government, and could force governments to pay the attorney fees of persons or businesses who bring suit.

Human Relations Act

Meanwhile, Equality PA has been working to pass HB/SB 300 which would update PA's Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, and disability in employment, housing, and public accommodation. House and Senate Bill 300 (HB/SB 300) would amend the PHRA to include sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. This would mean that individuals perceived to be gay or transgender could not be excluded from employment, housing, or refused goods or services. Today, gay and transgender people in Pennsylvania have no recourse if they are fired, evicted, or turned away from a business simply because of who they are or who they love.

Source: Equality PA

 continued from page 3

"Why are John Kerry and the Obama administration even contemplating regarding a nation guilty of terrible human rights abuses against gays, Jews and women by lifting sanctions? Human rights can't be ignored in these negotiations." THe ad continues: "Tell John Kerry this is a bad deal."

• Texas Files Number of Anti-LGBT Bills

Texas lawmakers have filed at least 20 anti-LGBT proposals this year thought to be the most in the history of any state. Texas Magazine reports that the backlash was widely expected among LGBT advocates, due to backlash over the spread of same-sex marriage. The latest challenge comes from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton who is challenging the Obama administration on a new rule that would allow married same-sex couples to be eligible for the Family & Medical Leave Act, even in states that don't recognize their unions.

• Idaho Bakes Potato

Shepherd

The Idaho House on voted 44-25 in favor of a non-binding memorial to Congress calling for federal judges who rule in favor of gay marriage to be impeached. "I think somehow, someday we've gotta take a stand," GOP Rep. Paul Shepherd told the House. Shepherd was the author and sponsor of the measure. "You can't say an immoral behavior according to God's word, what we've all been taught since the beginning, is something that's just, and that's really kinda what this is all about," he told the House. "We'd better uphold Christian morals. As an example, how about fornication, adultery and other issues." Rep. John McCrostie, D-Boise, who is gay, told the House, "Of all the bills that I've voted on in the last weeks, HJM 4 causes me the most hurt. … This bill is personal, and it hurts me. … This bill implies that my marriage isn't worth as much as someone else's."

McCrostie

• "The Gays" Are to Blame - Again

The Washington Post reported that the 24-year-old son of Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore was arrested on drug possession charges March 15, but according to the younger Moore, the charges are "just a political scheme to further attack his father over gay marriage." Alabama media reports the younger Moore has had 7 arrests in 4 years.

• Transgender Students Now Have Choice

Students at Kennett High School in Conway will now have a choice of which color cap and gown they wear to graduation. Traditionally, boys at the school wore black robes and girls wore white. But two weeks ago, members of the Gay, Straight Transgender Alliance asked the school board to make changes after transgender students were assigned robes for the gender they don't identify with.

"We have a few transgender students that didn't get their desired robe colors. They were forced to wear the color that their sex assigns them and not their gender," student Emily Heath said. The school board fulfilled the students' request to let each person decide which color they will wear. Graduation is June 20.

• Virginia School Reverses Stance

A transgender student at Hartwood Elementary School will have to use a single-stall restroom, staff bathroom or the restroom of the student's biological gender, the Stafford School Board recently decided. "The issue isn't as clear as anyone would like it to be, and I'm hoping at some point that we get some direction either from our legislators in Virginia or from the Virginia School Boards Association," Superintendent Bruce Benson said. The school system's nondiscrimination officer said in a letter to a parent that federal agencies have interpreted Title IX to require schools to permit transgender students to use the restroom of the gender with which they identify.

• San Fran Cathedral Drenches Homeless

In an ongoing story, *KCBS* reports that San Francisco's Saint Mary's Cathedral, the principal church of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, has installed a watering system to keep the homeless from sleeping in the cathedral's doorways. The cathedral is the home church of the Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. *KCBS* witnessed it soak homeless people, and their belongings. But there are no signs warning the homeless about what happens in these doorways, at various times, all through the night. Water pours from a hole in the ceiling, about 30 feet above, drenching the alcove and anyone in it.

• Michigan Denies Homes to Foster Children

The Michigan House of Representatives have passed three bills, House Bills 4188 (LaFontaine-32), 4189 (Santana-9), and 4190 (Leutheuser-58), allowing taxpayer funded adoption agencies the ability to deny an adoption placement based on that agency's moral or religious beliefs. Michigan has 14,000 children in foster care at any one time. These bills could threaten the placement of the over 3,000 foster care children whose biological parents' rights have been terminated and who are just waiting for homes. Yet the bills acknowledge that denying a couple based on religious or moral convictions does not imply "that the proposed adoption is not in the best interests of the adoptee." Additionally, the bills protect public funding for agencies choosing to discriminate.

• Army Changes Transgender Discharge

While transgender service members are still prohibited from serving openly, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs must now approve their removal. According to the American Military Partner Association (AMPA), the Army has officially made a policy change regarding dismissal of transgender service members, who are still prohibited from serving openly. Removal of a transgender service member from the Army must now be approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, rather than by local unit commanders.

• Psychology Delay?

Four hours after Lila Shapiro published her article on *Huffington Post, Psychology Today* changed its policy of allowing therapists to advertise "gay conversion" counseling. Therapists who offer the gay "cure" will no longer be allowed to advertise their services in the directory pages of *Psychology Today*, a magazine and website that includes profiles of tens of thousands of mental health professionals. When Shapiro's article first appeared online, the Human Rights Campaign said the publication is lending the controversial practice of conversion therapy a "veneer of credibility" and "propping up a fraudulent industry." In recent years, the mainstream health community, from the American Psychological Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has roundly rejected conversion therapy, the practice of attempting to turn gay people straight via counseling.

• Bill Insures Same-Sex Spouse Benefits

U.S. Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), along with Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced the Social Security and Marriage Equality (SAME) Act of 2015 to ensure all same-sex spouses receive equal treatment under the Social Security Act when applying for Social Security benefits, regardless of where they live. Eligibility for spousal benefits provided under the Social Security Act is determined by a place of residence standard. This standard has resulted in applications for Social Security benefits for legally married same-sex spouses living in states that do not recognize same-sex marriage not being approved. The SAME Act provides a roadmap to ensure all legally married couples have equal access to the benefits they have earned.

• Freedom Oklahoma Battles Back

"In January we promised to fight back against the slate of discriminatory anti-LGBT bills in the Oklahoma legislature," explained Troy Stevenson, executive director. In all, Freedom Oklahoma defeated proposed laws that would have allowed for religious exemptions to inclusion, a business rights bill allowing owners to refused LGBT individuals services, conversion therapy protections, marriage protection, disallowance of transgender indicator on marriage licenses, and other bills that would have curbed the expression of basic civil rights for LGBT Oklahomans.

• Rand Paul "offended" by gay marriage

US Senator Rand Paul thinks the marriage equality debate could have been avoided if contracts were allowed between adults. Rand is a leader of the Tea Party/ Libertarian wing of the Republican Party and a 2016 White House candidate. "I think marriage is between a man and a woman,' the senator said, according to *Raw Story*. "Ultimately, we could have fixed this a long time ago if we just allowed contracts between adults,' Rand said. "We didn't have to call it marriage, which offends myself and a lot of people." He added making the bond between two non-related adults a contract would defuse the debate. "I think having competing contracts that would give them equivalency before the law would have solved a lot of these problems, and it may be where we're still headed." Meanwhile, in an amicus brief 303 veteran Republican lawmakers, operatives and consultants have filed a friend of the court brief at the Supreme Court in support of same-sex marriage as that court considers challenges to state laws allowing same-sex marriage. The amicus brief, organized by former Republican National Committee Chairman Ken Mehlman, was filed for the four same-sex marriage cases the Court will hear on April 28 that could legalize the unions nationwide.

• Garden State SPCA Police Chief Exposed

Garden State Equality helped a Monmouth County SPCA Officer, Sue DesMarais, expose the homophobic, transphobic, and racist text messages of Monmouth SPCA Police Chief Victor "Buddy" Amato. Amato's texts compared Michelle Obama to an ape, made fun of slain black teenager's Michael Brown's death, and included a Christmas song with homophobic lyrics. DesMarais, after complaining about the texts to her superiors, alleges that she stopped receiving work assignments. *New Jersey News12* reported on March 11 that Amato resigned.

• New York Lifts Transgender Medicaid Ban

The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) reports that transgender New Yorkers covered by Medicaid can now access the medically necessary health care they have been denied for nearly two decades. Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health have officially adopted a new regulation that ends the 17-year-old exclusion of transgender health care from New York's Medicaid program. The new regulation, now in effect, eliminates a 1998 regulation which stated that coverage "is not available for care, services, drugs, or supplies rendered for the purpose of gender reassignment…." In 2013, TLDEF submitted a 38-page letter urging the state to rescind the 1998 regulation. The new regulation ensures coverage for many common treatments for gender dysphoria, the diagnostic term used to refer to discomfort or distress caused by a difference between a person's gender identity and their sex assigned at birth.

Gay GOP Group Criticizes US Efforts to Broker Iran Nuclear Deal

By Frank Pizzoli

In the midst of tense negotiations with Iran in March, Log Cabin Republicans were urging US Secretary of State John Kerry not to broker a deal with Iran over its nuclear programs.

Capital Hill publication *Roll Call* on March 23 ran full-page ad from the gay GOP organization that shows the silhouette of what appears to be a dead man hanging from a rope attached to a gallows. The spot also contains an image of two legs hanging in the air under the headline "Secretary Kerry: This is about more than nukes!"

The ad read "Right now Iran is executing gay people and people merely suspected of being gay. Why are John Kerry and the Obama administration even contemplating regarding a nation guilty of terrible human rights abuses against gays, Jews and women by lifting sanctions? Human rights can't be ignored in these negotiations."

"Tell John Kerry this is a bad deal," it continues.

Two gay men were reportedly executed in the city of Rasht in March 2014 for "perversion." The State Department in its 2013 Human Rights Report notes consensual same-sex sexual activity in Iran remains punishable by death.

In our Jan-Feb 2015 issue (*When Coming Out Is a Death Sentence*), Central Voice asked Hossein Alizadeh to help readers get a handle on what is and what is not happening in Iran. Are gay men and lesbians being executed?

"TO DATE I HAVE NOT SEEN, HEARD, OR READ ANYTHING ABOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUGGEST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE EVEN ON THE TABLE..."
- Gregory Angelo

"Iraqi families are disowning their LGBT members," Alizadeh said in our first story.

The 39-year-old New York City resident is Middle East and North Africa Program Coordinator at International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). A US citizen originally from Iran, he studied international conflict resolution at Notre Dame.

"Right now in Iraq LGBT people are being captured, tortured, and even killed," Alizadeh explained. Violence against gay people is accomplished through the use of terror on the neighborhood level. For example, a leaflet distributed by the Asaib Ahl Al-haq militia shows a list of "sodomites". The leaflet (see photo) is from June 2014 when the photo was taken in Sadr-city, Baghdad.

Alizadeh explained to *Central Voice* what is happening.

"When the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 they brought with them technology and the Internet which was left behind upon their departure," he says. Internet cafés developed as did favorite meeting places for the LGBT community. For a period of time, "gay people had rising visibility, they had places to hang out and were able to meet each other," Alizadeh said.

And then came a backlash primarily from Iraqis religious militias.

And then came the ad from Log Cabin Republicans asking Kerry to not to make a deal with Iranians. Iran is among the countries in which homosexuality remains punishable by death.

"Given the high profile and high stakes of the United States negotiations with Iran, it was alarming that not a single gay advocacy organization was demanding the human rights abuses against gays in Iran be at the very least a part of the conversation,"

SECRETARY KERRY:
THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN NUKES!
Right now Iran is EXECUTING gay people and people merely suspected of being gay. Why are John Kerry and the Obama administration even contemplating rewarding a nation guilty of terrible human rights abuses against gays, Jews, and women by lifting sanctions? Human rights can't be ignored in these negotiations.
TELL JOHN KERRY THIS IS A BAD DEAL

Roll Call on March 23 ran an ad from Log Cabin Republicans that urges Secretary of State John Kerry not to sign a deal with Iran over its nuclear program.

Gregory T. Angelo, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, told the *Washington Blade*. "To date I have not seen, heard, or read anything about these negotiations to suggest human rights violations are even on the table, let alone a matter of importance."

"Gays in Iran are being executed just

Continued on page 18

All for Health.SM
How about this? How 'bout we cut some fat from the system and from our diets? How 'bout we lose the hot air and secondhand smoke? Let's give everyone a great choice of doctors and remember we're our own primary care providers. Let's build better plans with our healthy imaginations and pick up some healthy habits along the way. How 'bout we get started? Like, now. Because, not to get all daytime dramatic, but we do only have one life to live. Let's be the change we want to see in health care and the change we want to see in ourselves. Let's do it all for health. Learn more at AllforHealth.com
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Gov. Wolf Recognizes Need for LGBT Non-discrimination Protections

March 4 Gov. Tom Wolf addressed the legislature to outline his priorities for the coming legislative session and in his speech he recognized that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination at work, in housing and public accommodations.

Wolf stated, "The companies and countries that are thriving in today's global economy are those that are committed to diversity, inclusion, and fairness. All Pennsylvania's families deserve those same opportunities, no matter what their race, sexual orientation, where they started life, or who they are."

Anti-discrimination

In the last legislative session two bills were introduced in the House and Senate, HB and SB 300, that would update the Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the statues related to discrimination at work, in housing, and public accommodations. The bills had bi-partisan co-prime sponsors in both houses and record numbers of sponsors overall. The bills were reintroduced last March.

Transgender equality

In February, Philadelphia representative Rep. Mark Cohen introduced two transgender-rights bills. House Bill 303, the Transgender Pupil Education Rights Act, eliminates gender-based restrictions and prerequisites for transgender students. The bill would allow all students who identify with a certain gender to use that gender's spaces and would bar harassment in gender-segregated spaces. The legislation has nine cosponsors.

House Bill 304, the Transgender Health Benefits Act, expands health-care coverage for transgender individuals. It requires coverage of transition-related care, including hormone therapy, mental-health care and surgery in all private, public and Medicaid plans. The legislation has nine co-sponsors.

Conversion therapy

In January, State Sen. Anthony Williams introduced Senate Bill 45, the Protection of Minors from Sexual Orientation Change Counseling Act. The bill bans state-licensed mental-health professionals from engaging in sexual-orientation "reparative" or "conversion" therapy with minors. In 2009, the American Psychological Association concluded that sexual-orientation change efforts pose critical health risks to LGBT people. The measure has 45 co-sponsors and must next have a hearing before the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

Hate crimes

Last January, House Bill 218, a statewide LGBT-inclusive hate-crimes bill, was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. The bill expands the offense of ethnic intimidation to include actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. The measure has 47 co-sponsors.

Carla Christopher-Waid Runs for York City Council

Christopher-Waid

You know her as the lead organizer for York's Equality Fest which successfully launched last year. Now Carla Christopher-Waid is running for York City Council.

When York's LGBT politician David Satterlee won a seat on York City Council it was a quiet but historic moment in the small and historically conservative county. However, in the four years that Satterlee has been representing the city significant changes a growing renaissance has transformed downtown York and several of its neighborhoods.

"An emerging center for art galleries and fusion restaurants peppered with liberal nonprofits and civil and human rights advocate groups have found a strong and vocal foothold," Christopher-Waid says. York's 2014 Equality Fest, which 2,000 people attended, was one of those changes in the fabric of the city. This year's event is Aug. 2 at York' s Royal Square.

Regarding the festival, Christopher-Waid says, "With hate crime, discrimination, equal pay issues and minimum wage debates, there remains lots to talk about when it comes to equality," she says. "We must make sure every citizen has access to full inclusion in all the aspects of a civil life." She says that although Aug. 2 celebrates with music, art, family activities and weddings, "we're gathering to encourage each other to combine resources so that we can get right back to continuing our activism. I don't want anyone to tolerate diversity. I want them to celebrate, embrace, and encourage it. Nothing less is acceptable."

York's Equality Fest grew from that sort of thinking.

"The festival rose up from wanting to celebrate the recent court decision overturning Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex marriage," Christopher-Waid explains. York's Mayor Kim Bracey performed a public ceremony at the event in which numerous couples were married. It was against this backdrop of developments that Satterlee, himself newly married, decided not to seek re-election.

Christopher-Waid stepped up to the plate after local political wizards asked to consider a run for public office. People ask her where she gets energy. "I was born with passion, with belief. My mother was a woman's rights attorney and my father was a business law professor. He helped minorities navigate a system that wasn't invented to empower them. I learned at the feet of the best that nothing is given. Nothing is easy. Refusing to be stopped by that, embracing the challenges as adventures, that's how we learn and grow," she says convincingly.

Eric Gutshall Running for Dauphin County Controller

By Central Voice

Harrisburg resident Eric Gutshall is seeking the Democratic nomination for Dauphin County Controller. He serves as Legislative & Policy Director for Democratic State Representative Patty Kim. Gutshall has also worked as a Legislative Assistant for former Pennsylvania Republican Congressman Todd Platts. He was recently elected Chair of the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats.

"If elected, I will work nonstop to protect the people's assets by ensuring transparency, increasing public awareness of the county's finances, and promoting innovative ways to run county government efficiently," Gutshall said in a news release.

Central Voice: Dauphin County row offices are traditionally held by Republicans. Are you breaking the political mold?

EG - The Dauphin County Controller is unlike other row offices. Because the controller must be fair, independent, and ready to roll up his or her sleeves for the taxpayers of Dauphin County, voters must look to the candidate and not the political party. I'm proud to say my career is rooted in these principles. I've worked for Congressman Todd Platts – a Republican – and I currently work for State Representative Patty Kim – a Democrat. I'm ready to be the independent advocate for the taxpayers of Dauphin County.

CV: Explain to voters exactly what fiscal matters a county controller watches over? Where do the funds come from that a controller monitors?

EG: Simply put, the controller is the county's "chief fiscal watchdog". Every fiscal transaction for county government is to be kept in check by the controller. The controller monitors county contracts, serves on the retirement board, audits fiscal transactions, and retains all fiscal records. If elected, I want to center the controller's office on rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. The approved county budget for 2015 totals roughly $245 million. Revenue comes from multiple different taxes, service charges, and grants, to mention a few.

CV: You're gay. Pennsylvania doesn't have an employment protection law. Our same-sex marriage rights were achieved through the courts not the legislature. We're not mentioned in the state's Hate Crimes Law. And if elected county controller, you will not have oversight on these issues. That said, should you're being gay matter to voters in 2015?

EG: As the Chair of the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, whose mission is to advocate equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, I firmly believe it is important to have LGBT representation in government.

Info: www.EricGutshall.com

Equality PA's Ted Martin to Attend Security Seminar

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) has announced the appointment by the U.S. Army War College of Ted Martin to the War College's National Security Seminar (NSS). The NSS, which will take place this spring, is a capstone event for all War College students and faculty.

The NSS provides an examination of current national security issues and a dialogue that exposes participants to a variety of perspectives.

"The U.S. Army War College is a renowned military education institution which is charged with honing its student's leadership techniques, research skills, and strategic thinking," said Sen. Toomey. "One manner in which the War College does this is through the National Security Seminar (NSS), which allows military students to work with a diverse group of community leaders from across the country.

"With this in mind, I am proud to announce that Ted Martin have been selected by the War College as two of the community leader participants for this year's prestigious NSS."

"I am deeply honored by the US Army War College. If you had told me as a young gay man from Connellsville, Pennsylvania, that I would be here today, I would not have believed you. It's a testament to how far we all have come."

Ted Martin is the executive director of Equality Pennsylvania, which is the state's leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) political advocacy organization. He began his career as Legislative Assistant and Deputy Chief of Staff of a subcommittee for the Education and Labor Committee of the US House of Representatives. Ted also serves on the board for several non-profit organizations.

To attend the NSS, all potential participants must first be nominated by prior NSS attendees, War College students, alumni, staff, faculty, the Army War College Foundation, as well as Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army. Ted Martin was nominated by Senator Toomey and State Director, Col. Robert DeSousa, a U.S. Army War College graduate and Officer in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Kim Re-introduces Minimum-wage

State Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, has re-introduced her legislation to increase the state's minimum wage. The bill would help struggling families pay their bills and reduce their reliance on government assistance programs.

"According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 14 percent of Pennsylvanians are living in poverty," Kim said. "Now is the time to start making Pennsylvania's working families our top priority by increasing their wages."

Kim announced the reintroduction of the legislation, H.B.250, during a daylong event advocating for a minimum-wage increase hosted by the Raise the Wage Coalition, a statewide alliance of worker, religious, community, women's and labor groups.

Kim's bill would increase the minimum wage from the current $7.25 per hour to $9 per hour and then to $10.10 per hour a year later.

Increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 per hour would boost the earnings of a full-time worker by more than $5,900 to $21,008. For a single mother with two children who works 40 hours per week, this would get her family above the poverty line, which is $19,790 for a household of three.

Currently, someone earning minimum wage who works 40 hours per week only makes $15,080, which is more than $4,700 below the poverty line, requiring many people to use government assistance programs just to get by.

House Bill 250 also includes an annual cost-of-living adjustment, which would be the same rate that all state lawmakers receive annually.

"State legislators who enjoy an annual automatic pay increase now have the power to give this same benefit to low-wage workers," Kim said.

Kim said that when she introduced her previous minimum-wage bill in November 2013, only 10 states had increased their minimum wage but as of today, 29 states plus Washington D.C. have adopted an increase.

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All HIV-related services are provided at no-cost to the participant. Primary medical care and mental health counseling services are available on a sliding fee scale. While many insurance plans are accepted, insurance is not necessary to access the services of Alder Health.

5 Ways for Men to Maintain Sexual Health Past 50

By Dr. Thomas Wood
LGBT Elder Initiative

Bank on your body's resilience by giving it a little time to heal by dialing down or eliminating smoking, drinking or use of other harmful substances.

Is it possible to outgrow your sexuality? For some, this may seem like a ridiculous notion but gay, bisexual and transgender men over 50 are regularly asked to consider this very question. Generally speaking, sexual wholeness originates in positive sources of intimacy, sensuality, sexual identity and seductive play. Maintaining a healthy body plays an important role as well. Since there is no one way to define sexuality, consider what sexual "wholeness" means to you as you read these tips. If you wonder how men can possibly keep their sexuality alive after age 50, here are five methods worth giving a try. You may unlock your sexiest years yet!

1. Into-Me-See: How could you be more vulnerable than to share your deepest sexual desires? As we age, we get a better sense of what we like or might like to try. Do you want to change your typical sexual position? Do you think a little rough play is hot? Is there a toy you'd like to try? Don't waste time worrying what others might think! Instead, improve your connections by initiating intimate conversations with your partner and people you trust.

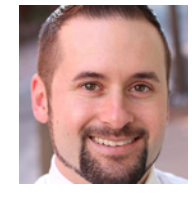
2. Sense and Sensuality: It is normal to want to make a good sexual impression. However, caring too much about impressing your sexual partner can quickly lead to performance anxiety. Aging does affect sexual response in many men, making it difficult to gain or maintain erections. This reality could seem depressing if it weren't for our body's amazing ability to transmit pleasure through a wide variety of other sources! Focus less on the state of your erection and more on pleasurable touch, tastes, sights, sounds and smells. Sensual play is the secret to positive erotic tension. Treat all your senses as a gateway to arousal and performance pressures can soon melt away.

3. Can I See Your ID, Please?: Finding sexy labels or identities for yourself after 50 can be difficult. Most of us lack the funds to be a "sugar daddy" or the body/face/hair to be a "silver fox." Although positive feedback from others may influence how we label our sexual selves, the ultimate decision is our own. Sounds like power, doesn't it? That's because it is! Close your eyes and think about your best, most unique qualities. Look yourself over in the mirror and notice where your eyes stop and what they admire. Ask friends or a close confidant what makes you stand out in a crowd. Combine these features into a word, title or identity that makes you feel good and let yourself come out all over again. It keeps your sexual identity fresh and creates surprising sexual intrigue.

4. Genitals and More!: Let's face it, most of us have not been kind to our bodies. Over time, drinking, smoking and non-prescription drug use do incredible damage to our neurological and vascular systems — those structures responsible for controlling sexual response. Consider taking steps to increase your health in these areas. Exercise more for vascular health or work with a mental-health clinician to improve mental and emotional well-being. Most importantly, bank on your body's resilience by giving it a little time to heal by dialing down or eliminating smoking, drinking or use of other harmful substances.

5. Sexual Visibility: Catching the eye of someone attractive can be exciting and arousing! So often, older men are desexualized and can feel sexually invisible to others. What is even worse is that, without positive feedback, we can begin to desexualize ourselves. Our brains miss sexual opportunities when we aren't looking for them, causing us to feel more isolated from flirtatious play. In order to be open, we must bathe our brains in seduction. Create a mantra to repeat in your mind that describes yourself as a healthy and sex-loving man without shame. Even if you don't believe it right away, you may come to see the truth in your mantra over time and may even notice others who want to help prove it.

For more information on gay, bisexual and transgender men's sexual health over 50, visit www.sageusa.org/ and www.aarp.org/relationships/friends-family/aarp-pride/. You can also purchase the book "Sex Happens: A Gay Man's Guide to Intimacy" by Arlen Leight or find it at your local library.



Dr. Thomas Wood is a licensed clinical social worker and certified sex therapist with the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists (AASECT).

Local Effort Growing Deep Roots

By John Folby
Central PA History Project

Three years after first starting the Central PA History Project is on its way to growing deep roots in the region. Teddy Maurer and Barry Loveland presented the idea of creating a south central Pennsylvania LGBT history project to LGBT Community Center's Aging with Pride Committee. Today, the project enjoys an archival and academic collaboration with Dickinson College, where items are catalogued and stored and at times on display. Recognized nationally, the local project is the recipient of the Jamison Award for Archival Achievement.

Collecting and cataloguing an archival collection of stories and items on our collective history will help others understand how the LGBT community grew up, lived, worked, contributed to, and died in region. A history project will ensure that as a community we have preserved our contributions to society within and beyond the region.

In my mind's eye, the project is comparable to a favorite childhood fantasy – finding the elusive pirate's hidden treasure. Our LGBT histories and related materials are priceless treasures that are becoming more valuable with each new story, each new object that is shared. A frequent comment heard when soliciting stories from community members is, "I don't have a story or I don't have anything important to talk about." Not true. Every one of us has an important story to share for posterity. As our brochures point out: Her Story, His Story, each is priceless.

The project is carried out by an all volunteer group of interviewers, videographers, transcribers, photographers, and archivists who are enthusiastic about preserving your story and mementos. The stories and objects already preserved through our collaboration with Dickinson College are already being recognized as an important record of who we are, what we have done and are doing as members of our LGBT community and the community-at-large. Each story and object is a valuable tool that is helping to educate future, teachers, social workers, sociologists, writers, regional and national historians, researchers and story tellers.

One of the great things about the project is that there is no "end" date. We plan on soliciting historians, and recording stories for as long as we can and as long as there are individuals in the community willing to share their history and volunteers to do the work. Our volunteers also include an ancillary group of volunteers who are interns from local colleges and universities. Many do not identify as LGBT but report they are learning a lot about us.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are busy soliciting private and corporate funds that will be used for additional video equipment, an exhibit kiosk, development and ongoing maintenance of our website and promotional materials. There is a group of volunteers who transcribe each interview to enable the development of user-friendly research tools. Other volunteers maintaining an inventory and photograph every item donated to the archives before it is transferred to Dickinson College for storage.

If you are not interested in sharing your history, please consider donating archival materials related to your LGBT life to the collection. Condition is not important. To date, Dickinson College has hosted two receptions to show case items during October's LGBT History Month. Some of the items include an 1870 gay novel *Joseph and his Friend* written by Pennsylvania author Bayard Taylor, and dozens of pins and buttons representing LGBT organizations, fund raising events, Gay Pride, HIV/AIDS, Equal Rights, NOW, and LGBT political campaigns.

Additionally, there are thousands of newspaper and magazine clippings individuals have lovingly preserved in old scrap books and boxes, long before scrapbooking was a hobby. There are also reams of documents illustrating the LGBT struggle for equal rights through initiatives created by individuals living in the region.

There are tattered posters from the 1991 March On Washington, ACT UP, and Gay Pride events. Other items include old match books (almost everybody smoked in the 60's and 70's in the bars), coasters, and drink stirs. One historian donated the entire collection of The Lavender Letter a lesbian newsletter that was published in Harrisburg from 1995 to 2006.

Eventually, we will use archival materials to present in traveling exhibits.

Outreach is crucial in an attempt to find potential historians who might not attend events at the LGBT Center, or go to bars or Gay Pride events. We're hoping an exhibit kiosk will enable us to present our information to local schools, libraries, community events including churches. There is a growing trend among various churches in the region to open their doors to diversity. We're hoping to send our volunteers to their diversity meetings not only to educate the congregation but possibly find historians in the process.

Want to get involved? Contact: 717.920.9534; history@centralpalgbtcenter.org; www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project

John Folby serves on the Steering Committee for the LGBT History Project and is Outreach Chairman.

Legal column

By Leo L. Dunn, Attorney at Law

A Matter of Trust

I was speaking recently regarding documentation for estate and end-of-life planning and two interesting concerns were brought up: 1) who should be named as agent in a financial power of attorney when you are single, older and do not trust younger family or friends to manage your money appropriately, and 2) how can you plan so your sole proprietorship business doesn't become valueless if you die?

First, let's talk about powers of attorney (POA) for financial matters. The agent is who will take care of paying bills for you, managing your assets, selling your house if needed, and anything else that needs done if you cannot easily do these for yourself. You may still be living at home or be in a residential facility. You may or may not be competent to make decisions. It may simply be easier to have someone else such as your spouse, nephew or a friend take over these matters.

There are two kinds of POA. One (the best) goes into effect immediately upon signing. The other only takes effect if you become incompetent. The reason the second is not recommended is that your agent needs to get doctors to declare you incompetent. Doctors do not like doing this because of liability concerns. Thus, you need to pick an agent who you trust completely to not abuse the POA. If you do not have a spouse, partner, family member or friend that fits this level of trust, you should talk with your bank or credit union's trust department. You may also talk with your attorney. Some attorneys and most banks will act as POA for a reasonable fee. You may also set up a trust with the attorney or bank as trustee to take care of financial matters for you as you need to turn this responsibility over to others as you age. The amount you pay in fee needs to be weighed against how much you could potentially lose if an agent uses your money inappropriately and it cannot be recovered. Remember, you get what you pay for. These kinds of corporate trust arrangements tend to have very little abuse.

Now on to the sole proprietorship where is often occurs that an owner dies, or becomes ill, and the business stops and becomes valueless. Typically the objective of planning is to keep the business running so it can be sold and the value given to the heirs (spouse or children).This is hard to generalize about, but the primary thing is to have a business succession plan in place. If the business is one where trusted employees can run the business adequately without you, then you can create a business trust that keeps the business operating until it can be sold. The trust document needs to include or reference what needs to be done to keep the business running. Basically the owner needs to create a notebook that states everything that needs to be done on a daily, weekly, monthly and annual basis so someone else can step in and keep the business operating. It generally takes at least 18-36 months to sell a business.

While different matters, the resolution of both rests on having proper documentation in place along with people you can trust.

Leo Dunn is an attorney and counselor-at-law practicing in the Harrisburg area with a focus on the estate planning needs of the GLBT community. He may be reached at leo@leodunnlaw.com.

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Pankewicz Joins Board

Tressia Pankewicz has joined the board of directors of the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. A resident of Mechanicsburg, Pankewicz works as a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Harrisburg. She has been active is the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and is currently active with the Central PA Association for Female Executives and volunteers with Junior Achievement. Pankewicz will serve as a chamber Allied board member.

Events

Network mixers were recently held at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton in Lancaster and at the Paper Lion Gallery in Lemoyne.

May - There is a mixer planned for May 13, 6 p.m. at the PNC Silver Spring Square Branch, 6416 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg.

June - There is a mixer June 10, 6 p.m., The Whitaker Center, 222 Market Street, Harrisburg.

Info: www.cpglcc.org

Four Honored at 2015 Trans 100

by Victoria Martin
Keytone Student Voice

Four Pennsylvania leaders in the transgender community were honored at the 2015 Trans 100 Honorees event March 29 in Chicago. The Trans 100 celebrates the work of 100 influential transgender activists and advocates from across the country.

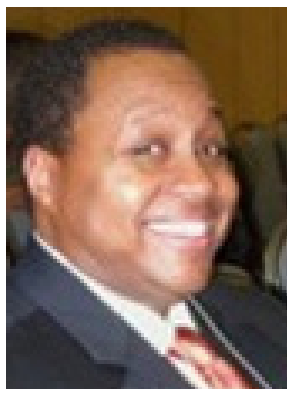
The event was hosted this year by Chicago trans activists Precious Davis and Myles Brady, with Keynote Speeches from GLAAD Senior Media Strategist, Tiq Milan, and film director Lana Wachowski. Violinist Tona Brown, Against Me! frontwoman Laura Jane Grace, and rapper Rocco Katastrophe performed.

The four Pennsylvania leaders are:

Samantha Jo-Dato, Philadelphia

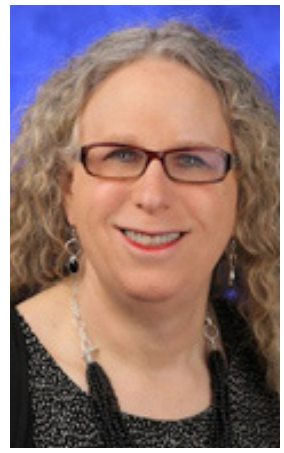
Samantha Jo-Dato is the Coordinator of the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference, one of the largest transgender conferences in the world. Jo-Dato has served as a Committee Member for the annual Philadelphia Trans March and worked to launch the Mazzoni Center's Trans Wellness Project.

Jayden HC Sampson, Norristown



Jayden HC Sampson is an organizer of the Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference. He serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors for Gender Reel, a coast-to-coast film and performing arts festival highlighting the experiences and identities of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Jayden previously served on the Board of Directors of the Attic Youth Center and the Mazzoni Center in Philadelphia. He first came to Pennsylvania to practice law as a Public Defender.

Dr. Rachel Levine, Middletown



Dr. Levine is the acting Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the highest ranking openly transgender public official in Pennsylvania history. Prior to her appointment, she served as chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorders at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Turner Stulting, Lewisburg

Stulting is a transgender youth activist, president of Bucknell University Gender and Sexuality Alliance, and the assistant director of Common Ground, a student-led diversity immersion retreat. Stulting has worked in various capacities with the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition. He served as State Operations Co-Chair of the 2014 Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference, 2014 Convener of the PSEC Coordinating Committee, and as 2014 Summer Policy Fellow. Last May, Stulting interned with the Triangle Project, a Cape Town, South Africa LGBT rights organization where he assisted with the monitoring of hate crimes. Stulting was 2015 recipient of the Mara Keisling Leadership Award. He is currently beginning research on the implications of socioeconomic class difference on transgender college students.

The 2014 Trans 100 honored four Pennsylvania leaders as well: A. Dionne Stallworth (Philadelphia), Charlene Arcila (Philadelphia), Shay(den) Gonzalez (Philadelphia), and Michael David Battle (Pittsburgh).

Central PA's only LGBT guide.
Contact Steve Kozokas
stevek@pressandjournal.com
717-856-3115

transgender column

By Joanne Carroll
president of TransCentralPA

5 Pride Events!

Keystone Conference 2015 was a blur, the time passed at such a rapid pace; that just as soon as the first conferee arrived it seemed as though a time warp occurred, and the band at the Gala banquet and dance were putting away their instruments and it was over.

In the intervening time, some amazing things happened. Friendships were made or renewed, seminars and workshops covered an immense variety of topics, the Patriot News/ Penn Live featured a complete week of transgender related stories and articles, and WGAL (Channel 8) spent two days filming interviews and activities that will air in the near future.

Amazing as it may sound; planning is already underway for the Eighth Annual event, which will be March 9 – 12, 2016.

Before moving on to what is next let me tell you about our record shattering attendance. During the weekend nearly 600 transgender men and women, significant others, allies, and health care providers as well as others graced us with their presence. Our best estimate is that this translates into between one-quarter to one-half million dollars of economic impact for greater Harrisburg and Lower Susquehanna Valley area.

What is next? As we roll into late spring and into the fall, TransCentralPA is planning to be visible at five separate Pride events; Lancaster, Harrisburg, Reading, York and once again at Millersville University in Lancaster. This will require a large human power commitment by our members and we look forward excitedly to these amazing events

Then, once again, another Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will pop up on our radar and we will be asking you to step forward and remember those trans-identified persons that were victims of homicide during the immediate prior twelve months. We will keep you advised of these details so that you can include your attendance in your daily planner.

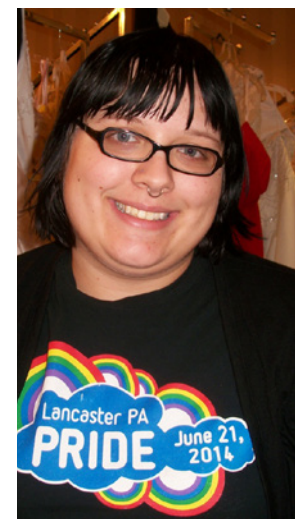
In closing, we must do everything as an LGBTQ community to leverage our influence for the passage of SB/HB 300 the non-discrimination bill. This must be passed into law and we have a Governor that cannot wait to sign the legislation. So please, let us unify around the cause that affects us all.

TransCentral PA is committed to providing advocacy and caring support for transgender individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies. TransCentralPA also provides gender education and information to businesses, organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies. TransCentralPA Care Line; 717-831-8142; www.transcentralpa.org

TransCentralPA Conference

With record attendance of 528 from 16 states and 8 foreign countries, TranscentralPA successfully held their seventh annual event in the region in late March. Clockwise from left, Dr. Jarrett Sell, Medical Director at Alder Health Services; Victoria Martin, ready for Lancaster Pride, of the PA Student Equality coalition; conference guest Marci and PCN Bank's Ashley Brundage on right; and TransCentralPA president Joanne Carroll.

Photos by Central Voice



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Lancaster PRIDE is a project of the LGBT Center LGBT center

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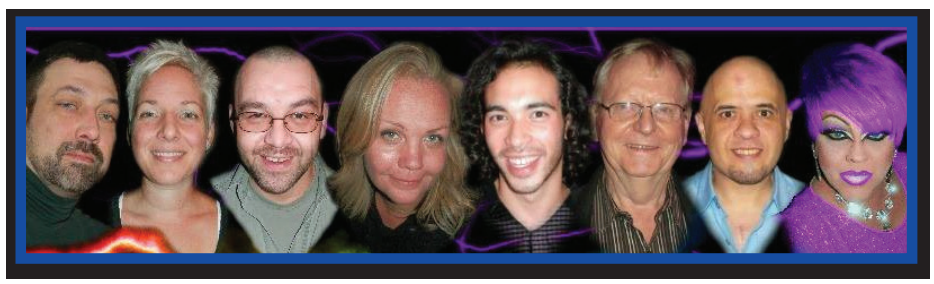

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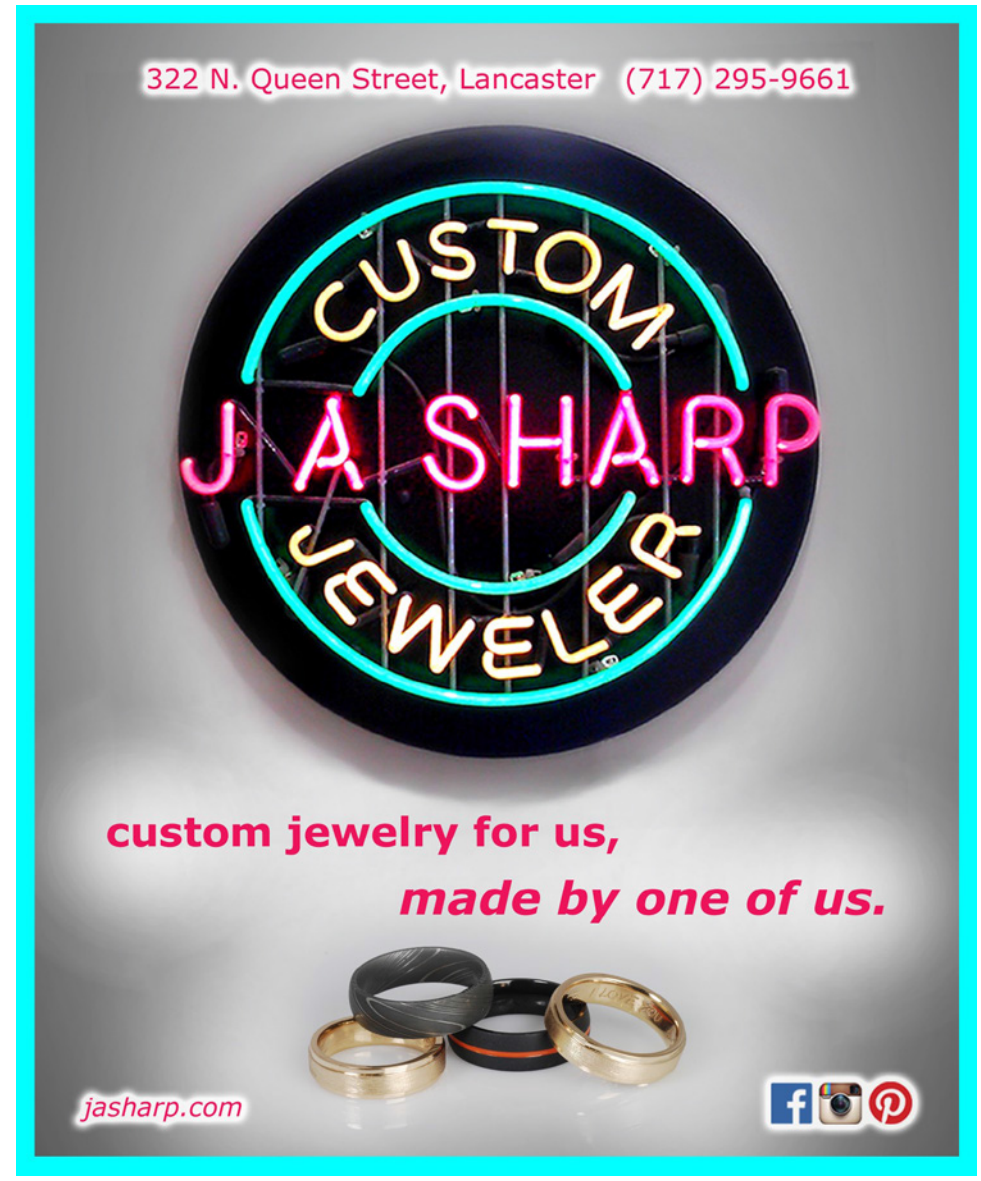

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Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons
Harrisburg Area Community College

It's a matter of belief—and reason

It's tough to sit in a meeting of a regional church body and hear good, well-meaning people talk about LGBTQ communities as not being part of God's plan. Now this was not about their existence, period, although it seemed so in some of the presentations made. This was about the question of same-sex marriage, and I was pleased that when the vote was taken, "marriage between two people" was approved by the Presbytery of Carlisle by a comfortable margin.

I've outed myself as a Christian

It's more fun to sit in a training session entitled Building an Inclusive Church, which I attended at my church, Market Square Presbyterian, a few days before I went to vote in that presbytery meeting. Facilitated by three LGBTQ pastors working with the Institute for Welcoming Resources of The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, we spent a day and a half talking about LGBTQ communities being very much part of God's plan, period.

Well, now that I've outed myself as a Christian: let me explain.

We'd all be better off if religion hadn't grown into such a bugaboo to so many people. I also think we all might be better off if those of us who ascribe to a particular religion could write a statement of faith as fine as that of Thomas Paine, who included his in the 1794 treatise The Age of Reason.

"I believe in one God and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life. I believe in the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist of doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow creatures happy."

There it is, and it's perfect.

Unfortunately for Paine, he didn't stop there and began a sharp attack on the various religions, focusing on all those creeds. He said he didn't believe in any of them, because "my own mind is my own church." He went on to say that he did not condemn those who believe otherwise. "They have the same right to their belief as I have to mine."

But in going from what he believed to a lengthy statement on what he didn't believe, he ran into serious trouble with his fellow citizens. Most were outraged, and Paine's standing went from hero to goat in a flash. There is no monument to Paine on the National Mall, although I and many others believe he's right up there with Jefferson and Lincoln.

I strongly identify with Thomas Paine, for in stating that I am a Christian I want to go into some detail about what I mean. I don't want anyone to assume they know what I believe and how I practice it; I want them to hear it from me, not someone else.

For now, let me say that I am a Christian in that I try to follow the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Those teachings in Matthew chapters 4,5 and 6 are all about the virtues held dear by Paine--doing justice, loving mercy and making our brothers and sisters happy. (Jesus called the latter experiencing the kingdom of heaven.)

All arguments among Christians about LGBTQ individuals center on what the Bible says about them. Or should I say what the Bible doesn't say about them. The Bible doesn't have a thing to say about someone who is a gay person, because through all the years over which it was written, not one writer had an understanding that a person could be such. Everyone was presumed to be heterosexual.

Folks who take the Bible literally uncover a host of problems along with the ease with which they and others take things out of context. For example, those who say Jesus defined marriage the same way as did the Old Testament, point to the time the Pharisees asked him about divorce. It's true that he referenced scripture's definition of marriage as a man leaving his mother and father and cleaving to his wife. But it's also true that Jesus wasn't talking about marriage—he was talking about divorce.

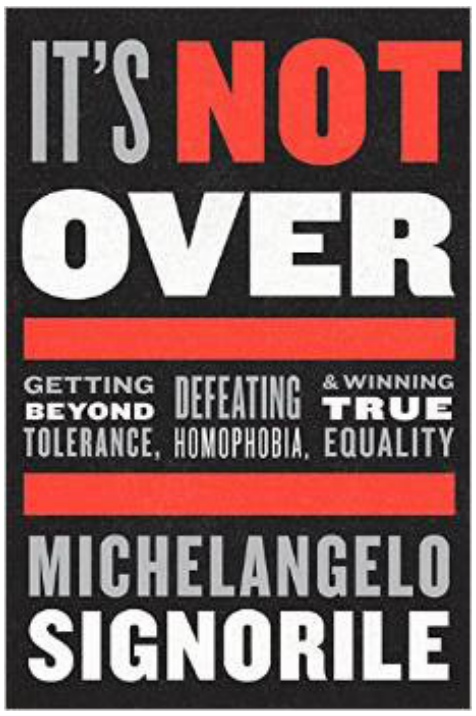
And evangelical and fundamentalist Christians have long found a way to justify divorce, even though Jesus explicitly prohibited it in the above passage. Think about this: Jesus does explicitly condemn divorce while never saying anything about same-sex relationships.

I belong to the school of thought that the Bible needs to be read as inspired literature written by wonderful—and very human--writers, which means that most of scripture needs to be read as poetry, metaphor, and myth. The kind of poetry and myth that tells us the truth about what it means to live in this world.

In other words, we need to use the God-given reason Thomas Paine wrote about and see how it can strengthen our faith. Belief doesn't have to conflict with reason, and we are diminished when we try to do without it.

Trum Simmons is professor emeritus of English and advisor emeritus to HACC Allies.

Religious Right's Endgame Against Equality



By Zach Ford
Think Progress

In his new book, *It's Not Over: Getting Beyond Tolerance, Defeating Homophobia, and Winning True Equality*, radio host Michelangelo Signorile warns that the LGBT movement is suffering from "victory blindness," the notion that the struggle for equality has already been won and there aren't still battles to fight. "There's a disconnect between the way we talk about the strides forward and the reality on the ground," he writes. "This narrowing of scope to talk only about successes — that's victory blindness." Complacency, he worries, could lead to setback, urging, "We've got to pay attention now perhaps more than ever before as equality's opponents gather their forces."

With the national corporate backlash against pro-discrimination bills in states like Indiana and Arkansas and an impending marriage equality decision expected from the Supreme Court, opponents of LGBT equality — largely conservative faith leaders — may feel backed into a corner, but many are as battle-ready as ever. Focus on the Family founder James Dobson believes a civil war could be fought over same-sex marriage. Rick Scarborough of Vision America Action believes, "This is a Bonhoeffer moment," referring to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor who resisted the Nazi dictatorship. But without resorting to such exaggerations of violent rhetoric, one prominent faith leader has offered a more candid observation about where things stand.

Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies at Boyce College (the undergraduate arm of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), is no stranger to anti-LGBT advocacy. Most notably, he co-authored the Southern Baptist Convention's resolution rejecting the existence of transgender identities. "At the heart of the transgender revolution," he saidat a conference in October, "is the notion that psychological identity trumps bodily identity." After comparing trans people to individuals who desire to have limbs amputated, Burk asked, "Does the body need adjusting, or does the thinking?"

This week, he reflected on the Indiana "religious freedom" controversy, noting, "It was a moment that revealed how profoundly this country has changed in its attitudes about homosexuality, how out-of-step evangelicals are with the new sexual orthodoxy, and how willing many Americans are to punish evangelicals for their transgressive beliefs."

Burk believes that "religious liberty took an epic beating last week" and that evangelicals have become "a bona fide minority when it comes to our commitment to Jesus' teaching about sexuality" — a minority despised for their ideas. But he still sees the conflict as a fairly simple one. "Evangelicals believe that homosexuality is a sin while the rest of the culture does not," he observed. "The heart of this conflict is a moral conflagration between those who insist that 'gay is good' and those who contend that it is not." Christians, as he defines them, must be prepared to endure the "injustice" of fines and jail time if that's what it takes to maintain anti-LGBT beliefs, including the discriminatory actions motivated by them.

Burk admits that many conservatives will abandon their prejudiced beliefs, but "a remnant will remain who will not bow the knee to Baal and who will not betray Christ's word no matter the cost." Unlike the hyperbole employed by Dobson and Scarborough, his threat to the LGBT equality movement is much more realistic: "You are going to have to go all the way. And when you've done your worst, the Christians are still going to be here holding fast to the faith once for all delivered to the saints. America is a flash in the historical pan. Christianity is not. We will outlast you. Mark it down."

This is exactly the kind of attitude that Signorile says the LGBT movement cannot abide, writing, "We can't let our wins convince us we're offending people or pushing too hard — or not being 'magnanimous' — when we demand full equality now and refused to accept mere tolerance." Speaking to Think Progress specifically about Burk's remarks, he added that "we need to always challenge them, always confront them and expose them and their beliefs."

Signorile worries that a new generation of LGBT young people won't have their guard up and won't be prepared for the fight the right keeps bringing. "We see some of this with women — young women often not having much of the history, or taking for granted the right to an abortion," he explained. But as long as there are people rejecting LGBT identities, the problem will persist. "I think we have to always stand up to religious bigotry because [religious conservatives] will have children and raise them with it," Signorile warned. "Some of those kids will be LGBT too. We can't just let it go."

Burk may be right; there may be a contingent that remains stalwart in their opposition to a culture that fully embraces LGBT people as equals, just as there are still many opposed to other forms of social justice equality. As Signorile writes in the epilogue of It's Not Over, this bluff must be called. "It's time that all of us who support LGBT equality no longer agree to disagree on full civil rights for LGBT people," he concludes. "Anything less than full acceptance and full civil rights must be defined as an expression of bias, whether implicit or explicit. And it has to be called out — even if that means challenging our friends, coworkers, and other we know and respect — if we're to get beyond tolerance."

Denny Burk, professor of biblical studies at Boyce College

MCC column

By Rev. Lori Rivera, Pastor
MCC of the Spirit

Learn and Practice

I find myself this time around wondering how people have enough ideas in their heads to write weekly or even monthly columns in a newspaper or magazine while I strive to write one every other month. I want to bring a word of encouragement to the readers of our community, include an invitation to worship with us, and at the same time not sound like I am on a street corner passing our religious tracts or witnessing to folks sounding all glum and doom.

This month I am reminded of some of my experiences teaching in a public school in Florida. It was not uncommon to meet with parents of my students: single moms, mom and dad, both moms, but usually with mom without dad since dad was at work. A comment made to me at many conferences was, "I just don't know what to do about my child." He or she runs wild, won't listen to their parent, or won't do their homework. Sometimes I could say, "instead of buying your child a new $100 pair of sneakers each month, make them earn them by doing their school work or home chores. Make them accountable." That usually fell on deaf ears. They really didn't want an answer, they just wanted to complain.

What I really wanted to say to them but couldn't as a public school teacher was "get yourself and your child to church." I don't believe that "church" is or has the answer for everything. But I see the difference in those that have a faith they can rely upon and those that do not! I believe having faith gives us an undergirding strength and teaches us to be accountable for our actions. I am very much aware of parents who say they will let their children decide about their church preferences or faith when they get older, but once they age and they don't have a point of reference, they won't make any decision. It's like someone saying to you, which one do you like better: chocolate or vanilla? If you hadn't tried either one or both of them then you can't answer the question. You don't have a point of reference. The same is true of church and God. If you haven't experience God in any form then how can you make a decision about faith once you become an adult?

I believe it is important to learn about faith(s) and experience relying upon a faith. And learning to rely upon our faith by whatever name we call God is the same as learning our multiplication tables or other subject in school. We didn't learn them all at once. It took time. We went to school for 13 years before we even got to college or graduate school, or certificate programs so we could learn.

But more so, it takes practice. It takes practice for us to rely upon faith. The practice to rely upon our faith is a lifetime journey. Sometimes it seems we get it right and then the next thing we know something happens in our lives and we stumble through our faith. That's part of the practice. Stumbling, getting up, living through it, living by it, and sharing it.

I invite you to come and experience God. Whether you've tried "church" in the past or haven't ever entered a church except for someone's wedding or funeral, join us Sunday morning at 10am for worship at MCC of the Spirit. My invitation also extends beyond my own church. Many churches and temples are open and affirming of the LGBT congregation. Start your look by getting on the internet at looking at "interfaithalliancepa.org" and clicking on "LBGT Interfaith Coalition". You will find a list of churches that are open and affirming and their statements of affirmation. My prayer for all of us today and every day is that we will find and practice a faith that undergirds our lives.

Iran cont'd from page 7

for being who they are, for goodness sake," added Angelo. "The silence from other LGBT advocacy organizations on this matter as we enter the eleventh hour of talks necessitated Log Cabin Republicans step up and take Secretary Kerry to task and demand action."

Alizadeh said he thought the Log Cabin Republicans ad "is part of a broader bi-partisan political battle, using the plight of the LGBT Iranians to oversimplify a very complex cultural issue, as he wrote in his article for The Huffington Post where he said the move was "political posturing".

The reality is, Alizadeh says is that "combating homophobia in Iran requires extensive social, legal, and political work, both domestically and internationally. Imposing sanctions - and starving people to death - does not solve cultural prejudice. He cites an example from a decade ago "when we saw in Iraq's case a decade-long oil-for-food program under Saddam Hussein arguably created more hostile environment for vulnerable segments of the society, including LGBT people.

He further clarifies that sanctions are just a political and economic tool to accomplish political goals, in this case negotiating a political settlement with Iran over their nuclear issues. "Sanctions are not meant to defeat religious and cultural homophobia. To do this, one requires to do extensive cultural work that takes may take years, if not decades," Alizadeh says.

Many Iranian LGBT people "are struggling to survive and many of them find it difficult to escape Iran for a another country, mainly due to devaluation of Iranian currency as the result of sanction, which has made international travel out of reach for average Iranians," Alizadeh explains.

He believes a better strategy to support LGBT Iranians "is to offer economic opportunity for them and to provide the society with the knowledge to understand issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

His money is where his mouth is. Over the past few years, his organization has offered $30,000 in scholarship funds to Iranian LGBT community members. "We also offered extensive media-sensitivity training on LGBT issues to Persian media outlets," he concludes.

arts & entertainment

FULTON THEATRE, LANCASTER

The Wizard of Oz
June 2 - July 12

The greatest family adventure of all time and the most elaborate retelling of this treasured gem will close our 2014/2015 Season. With the biggest set, complicated flying, enormous puppetry, high-tech video, stage hydraulics, and a cast of over 50 performers, it is planned to be the biggest event of our season. Even if you have seen it dozens of times before, you have NEVER seen it this way. Join us Over the Rainbow for the dazzling finale of this very special season.
Tickets: 717-397-7425 or online

WHITAKER CENTER

Zappa Plays Zappa
July 30 - 8 p.m.
Sunoco Performance Theater

Tickets include Dweezil Zappa Guitar Masterclass, Soundcheck party and poster
As a child in the Zappa family home, Dweezil Zappa recalls idolizing his father's amazing musical gifts as a composer and guitarist. After his father passed away in 1993 he felt moved to do something to honor Frank's life and pure talent; thus Zappa Plays Zappa emerged. 717-214-ARTS (2787)

STRAND THEATRE

YSO: Classical #4 The Creation
May 9, 7:30 p.m.
The final concert of the Classical Concert Series features York Symphony Chorus and monumental work widely regarded as Haydn's magnum opus - The Creation by Franz Josef Haydn, master of the Classical Period, friend of Mozart and teacher of Beethoven.
Info: www.mystrandcapitol.org

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

NT Live: Man and Superman
June 1, 7 – 10 p.m.
Majestic Theater Cinema 1

Academy Award® nominee Ralph Fiennes *(The English Patient, Schindler's List; Oedipus* at the National Theatre) plays Jack Tanner in this exhilarating reinvention of Shaw's witty, provocative classic. A romantic comedy, an epic fairytale, a fiery philosophical debate, Man and Superman asks fundamental questions about how we live. Jack Tanner, celebrated radical thinker and rich bachelor, seems an unlikely choice as guardian to the alluring heiress, Ann. But she takes it in her assured stride and, despite the love of a poet, she decides to marry and tame this dazzling revolutionary. Tanner, appalled by the whiff of domesticity, is tipped off by his chauffeur and flees to Spain, where he is captured by bandits and meets The Devil. An extraordinary dream-debate, heaven versus hell, ensues. Following in hot pursuit, Ann is there when Tanner awakes, as fierce in her certainty as he is in his. Info: 717-337-8200; boxofficeinfo@gettysburg.edu

SHARADIN BIGLER THEATRE

The Odd Couple (Neil Simon)
June 11 - 27

EPAC audiences are sure to enjoy the antics between Felix Ungar and Oscar Madison as they test each other's patience while enduring each other's annoying tendencies in a New York apartment. Can two divorced men share an apartment without driving each other crazy? Who knows, but it will certainly be hilarious to find out! Considered the greatest hit of Neil Simon's career, this Tony Award winning play opened on Broadway in 1965 and ran for 964 performances before being crafted into the 1968 film starring Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. In 2006 the play enjoyed an extended run on Broadway with Nathan Lane as the slovenly sports writer Oscar and Matthew Broderick playing the neurotic Felix. Tickets: (717) 733-7966; epacboxoffice@gmail.com

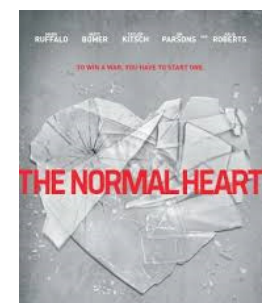
HERSHEY THEATRE

Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards
May 17, 7 p.m.

The seventh annual Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards will honor high schools and students in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon and Perry counties for their outstanding achievements in musical and play productions; high schools and students in the Elizabethtown area are also recognized. Awards will be presented in 17 categories. Tickets can be purchased at the Hershey Theatre box office or by phone: 717-534-3405.

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

The Normal Heart
May 8, May 9, 7:30 p.m.



Open Stage of Harrisburg and The LGBT Center of Central PA present a staged reading of The Normal Heart, Larry Kramer's landmark play about love, AIDS and New York in the 1980s chronicles the rise of the AIDS crisis in New York City as seen through the eyes of writer/activist Ned Weeks, the gay Jewish founder of a prominent HIV advocacy group. Tickets: 717-232-OPEN (6736)

Adoption to Marriage continued from page 1

Rudebusch

At the time the adoption was approved, the story went viral, having been originally published the day the US Supreme Court, June 28, decided that marriage was legal in the states reviewed, setting into motion the eventual turn-around of Pennsylvania's law. *ABC National News* and *The Huffington Post* reported on the adoption story as did media outlets worldwide.

The story caused a stir among local, national and international reporters because the younger partner had become the father of the elder partner. Most people thought the process should have been the other way around. Folby explains: The younger partner's father, me, is still living and having two father's would have been a violation of Pennsylvania adoption laws. People didn't understand the issue was not about age, it was about legally protecting end of life finances."

Fast forward 18 months. US District Court Judge John Jones III rules that Pennsylvania's ban on same sex marriage is unconstitutional thereby opening the door for John and Gregory to seal their relationship through marriage, freeing themselves from the higher rate of state inheritance tax liability.

But before moving forward, the adoption had to be annulled.

"Half a dozen attorneys and a few local judges were uncertain about a resolution because the adoption was between two adults and none of them had any experience with a legal next step," John said.

Several months of research ended when it was discovered that a legal resolution was uncharted territory. No state law could be found prohibiting an end to the adoption. The couple and their attorney, Marianne Rudebusch, Esq., filed a petition to end the adoption in November 2014 and the adoption was annulled January 2015. John and "Gregory" were married at home Feb. 2 by Rev. Eva O'Diam.

Gay Men's Chorus Presents "Icons & Divas

Join the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus on May 9, 8 p.m. and May 10 at 3 p.m. at Penn State Harrisburg, Educational Activities Bldg., Black Box Theater, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown.

The concert will embrace the diverse musical fabric of the LGBT community. In the first half of this two-part concert, the chorus acknowledges the game changers - the musicians who fundamentally changed the course of music. Listen as the HGMC explores works by classical master composers, pop gods and Broadway bad boys. The second half promises to be a literal non-stop party when the chorus unleashes its inner diva. Want to know what a queen and a goat herd have in common? Join the chorus to find out. Info: www.harrisburg-gaymenschorus.org

Haley Harned, Artist. Photography entitled "Apple"

Makespace Arts Collective Exhibit through May 7

The Art Association of Harrisburg welcomes artists of The MakeSpace Arts Collective at 21 North Front Street with an exhibition of their cutting-edge work through May 7.

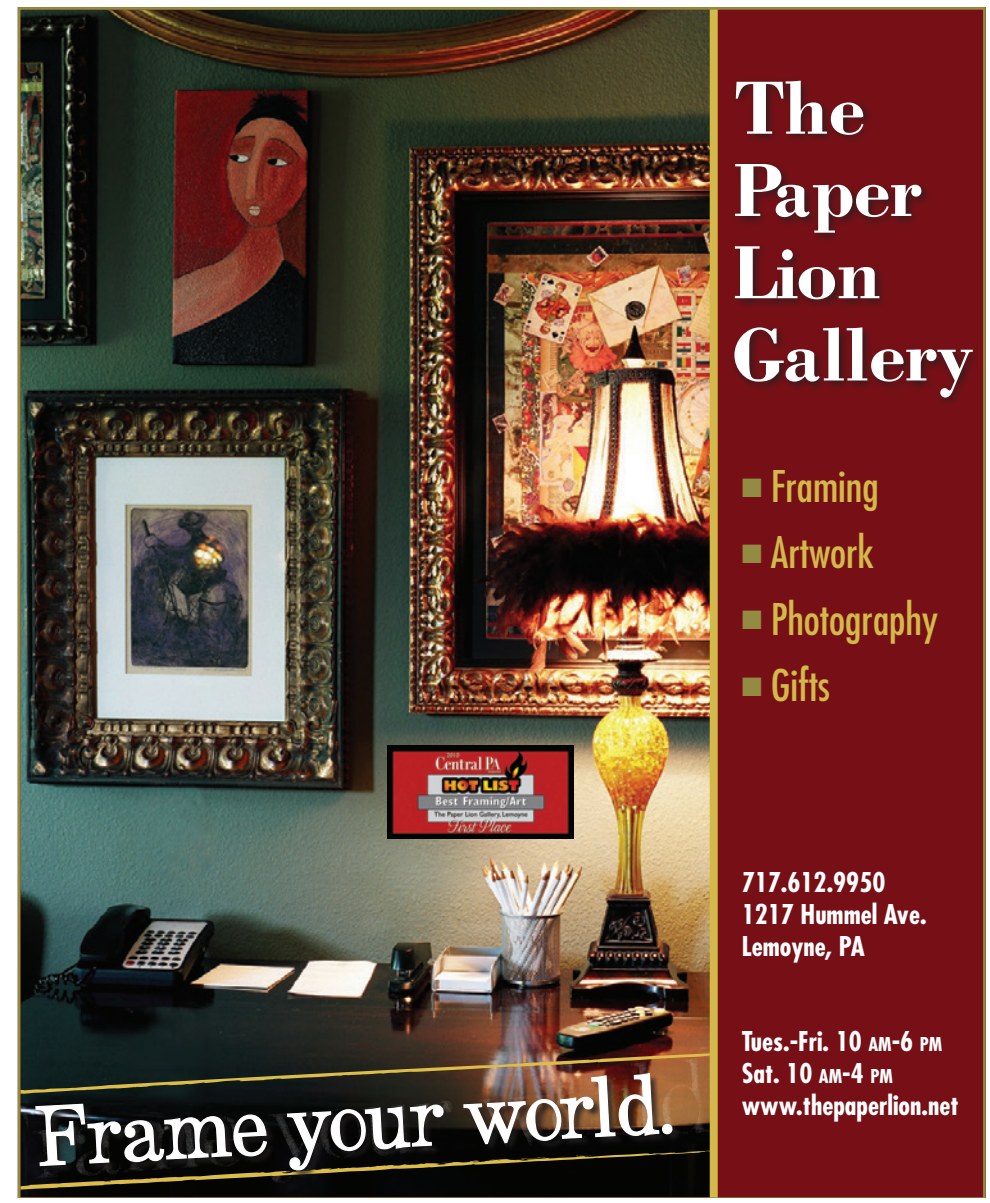
According to MakeSpace Director Liz Laribee, the arts collective artists are "defined by a fresh aesthetic, a commitment to place, a love for experimentation, and a dedication to craft." MakeSpace is a grassroots arts collective in Harrisburg. Their vision is an experimental collaboration of makers and supporters housed in a re-imagined row home. Their artists work is carried out by building support for the creative sector in Harrisburg: sparking innovation, developing partnerships, and resourcing the under-resourced. MakeSpace houses studio artists, venue and gallery space, and hosts six to eight monthly events open to the community.

As an entirely volunteer-run organization, MakeSpace sustains itself on barter, donations, and collaborative action to enrich the creative vitality of Harrisburg. They aim to incubate the work of individuals investing their creative efforts in the City of Harrisburg. They also hope to provide their artists with opportunities beyond their walls.

MakeSpace artists exhibiting in this show: Liz Laribee, Georgianna Hicks, Haley Harned, Stephen Michael Haas, Phil Wells, Meisa Chase, Anela Selkowitz, Mikey Rioux, Ralphie Seguinot, Jess Flynn, Dani Lucas, Meghan Morrison, Paul Manlove, Leah Yancoskie, Ian Kanski, Amanda Owens, Michael Fisher, and Tara Chickey.

Information: www.artassocofhbg.com; 717-236-1432.

Michael Fisher, Artist. Collage, eye of the holder



CALENDAR ART OF EVENTS
ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG

PSYCHIC GALLERY WITH WILLIAM STILLMAN
Friday, May 1, 7 pm
TICKETS: $40 in advance, $45 at door

87TH ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION
May 15 - June 18
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 16, 6-9 pm
MUSIC BY JAMES GOOD BAND

WEDNESDAY CLUB CONCERTS
Memorial Day Weekend, May 23 - 25

LEMOYNE SUMMER SOIRÉE
Saturday, June 6
TICKETS: $40 in advance, $45 at door

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT FUND

MECHANICSBURG SUMMER SOIRÉE
Saturday, June 20
TICKETS: $40 in advance, $45 at door

Visit ArtAssocOfHbg.com or call (717) 236-1432 for more information and reservations
21 NORTH FRONT STREET, HARRISBURG

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Recycling Words: An Interview with Lancaster Writer Henry Gepfer

By Tyler Barton, The Triangle

Possibly the most exciting thing about reading the work of living writers is that you can talk to them. Twitter is great for that. A lot of authors have websites with contact forms. Some offer their email addresses. I'm friends with a bunch of my favorite working writers on Facebook. I just searched their names. Weird, right?

Possibly the most exciting thing about reading writers who live in your county is that you can have coffee with them.

Back in November, I picked up a 'zine off the shelf in DECA, The Discerning Eye Center for the Arts. DECA, at 12 w. New St., is 1,400 square feet of "Community Center, Gallery, Music Venue, Studio Space & More" says its web site. located three blocks from the Lancaster Train Station and one block from Downtown Lancaster City. When I found the puib there, I instantly connected with the design; it looks like a composition book. It looked like a book of poems. It was, like, two dollars.

It was Henry Gepfer's Loser Life: Stolen Poems '87-'01, which I discovered was a chapbook of haikus composed strictly of song titles released by "slacker" punk and alternative bands during the 90's.

WHAT IF THERE WAS A BOOK OF POEMS ASSEMBLED ENTIRELY OF THE SONG TITLES I GREW UP LISTENING TO?

The way Gepfer described the idea's conception should sound familiar to creative types: a random, quirky, late-night thought that he couldn't let go of, although his came during a 3rd shift at a candy factory. What if there was a book of poems assembled entirely of the song titles I grew up listening to?"Usually those ideas, after I get back to a normal sleep schedule, turn out to be terrible…but that one stuck to me, so I did it," he said. Gepfer, a visual artist and printmaker, admits to feeling lazy about ideas sometimes. "I'm sort of a slack individual myself. I'd said I was gonna make a zine for ever. I can't remember how many projects I started and never finished it. I just did it to prove I could." Just about every artist can relate to that.

As for the content, the message, the stuff I chewed on while reading this work, Gepfer is fairly modest. For him, the process was fun, something to keep him busy during a lull in his visual art production. I wanted to know how much audience and purpose played into his creative process with Loser Life. He said, "I don't really approach art with a viewer or reader in mind. It's great to consider that when you're making it, but… I think when you're doing something like this you don't really owe anybody anything. I mean, they don't owe it to you to appreciate or value it. That's perfectly okay. Like if you wanted to, you could recycle it. That'd be okay."

Recycling seems to be exactly what he's doing. "Besides the intro, I didn't write it," Gepfer reminded me, "I assembled it." Recently, poets, artists, and musicians have been creating new landscapes by taking existing content and putting it to new use. They find interesting text and put limitations on its reuse. Gepfer not only limited himself to songs that fell between his most formative musical years, but set out to not repeat any bands; each line in the book comes from a different recording artist.

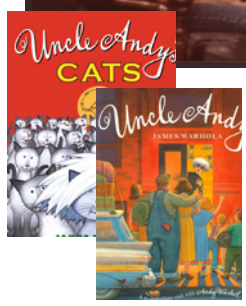
Gepfer's chapbook stands as more than just an experiment in poetic boundaries; it is a testament to slacker culture, a 90's ethos characterized by grunge, alt-rock, post-hardcore and an attitude of Screw You: I am what I am. "The goal was less to mythologize than demystify it," Gepfer said of the slacker era. "We have a way of thinking everything was better in the past, but I feel like a lot of that was because we were younger and had less responsibility—I kind of feel like everything has always sucked," he added.

The Slackers, as Gepfer describes them in the forward to Loser Life, were "good looking men and women, who masked their appeal in torn clothes, bad hair, and shitty attitudes. Fucking slackers." I wondered if he felt slacker culture was unique to the 90s, but he told me it's cyclical, that every generation has its slackers. Of course they go by differ-

Catching up with the Warholas

by Debra Miller
Philadelphia Arts and Culture Correspondent

Andy Warhol's family has been busy, with a full slate of exhibitions, lectures, interviews, and work on an upcoming documentary about their world-famous relative. The Pop Art Superstar's public contributions to 20th-century culture are known to everyone, but he also left a personal legacy that has had an immeasurable impact on his brother, nieces, and nephews.



They are now honoring him with a self-produced biopic called Uncle Andy: The Andy Warhol Family Film. Shot by photographer Abby Warhola (the granddaughter of Andy's eldest brother Paul) and artist Jesse Best (her partner), the full-length feature is in production and scheduled for release by 2017, the 30th anniversary year of Andy's death. It includes footage of the Warholas' reminiscences about Andy, photos from his youth, and animation sequences recreating stories from his childhood and from nephew Jamie Warhola's illustrated children's books Uncle Andy's and Uncle Andy's Cats. The visual images are backed by a soundtrack that ranges from contemporary pop to the ethnic folk music of their Slovakian heritage, including some traditional songs sung by Andy's mother Julia (Abby's great-grandmother, whom the family affectionately called 'Bubba').

The purpose of the Warhola Films' project is to expose a side of Andy that remains largely unknown: the man, not the icon. From his early days in Pittsburgh to his success in New York, members of his family were there, sharing his background, watching his growth, taking pride in his accomplishments, and being inspired through his artistic talent to follow in his footsteps. Abby began taping the recollections of her grandfather before Paul's death in January 2014, to preserve his early memories of his little brother Andy. "Mostly from talking with my family," Abby says, "I have learned that he didn't take himself too seriously . . . He was very funny!"

Among the lesser-known Warhol works that will be seen in the film are a series of paintings Andy did during his student days at Carnegie Tech (now Carnegie Mellon University), from which he received his degree in pictorial design in June 1949.

Still in the collection of the Warhola family, seven of the pieces will also be included in an upcoming exhibition at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pearlstein, Warhol, Cantor: From Pittsburgh to New York, opening on May 29.

According to the museum's assistant curator Jessica Beck, "The loans from the Warhola Family have long been an important part of our permanent collection galleries and have offered visitors the chance to see Warhol's student work from his years at Carnegie Tech. With the upcoming exhibition, visitors will be able to see work from this period in a much richer context and in dialogue with the student work of Philip Pearlstein and Dorothy Cantor. In some cases, visitors can see how each artist approached the same subject, such as a male model or Carnegie Music Hall. This exhibition would not have been possible without the many rare and exceptional loans from the Warhola Family."

Of those early paintings, one of Abby's personal favorites is I Like Dance, inspired by modern dancer/choreographer Martha Graham doing a high kick: "This piece always spoke to me; I love the movement and the colors Uncle Andy used. I used to be a dancer and studied Martha Graham's techniques, so I always feel the urge to strike a pose whenever I see it." But she especially likes Nosepicker #1 (which will be included in the film, but not in the museum exhibition): "I think that the Warholas have some distinct characteristics and it really just reminds me of most of the boys in the family; they're all pretty silly."

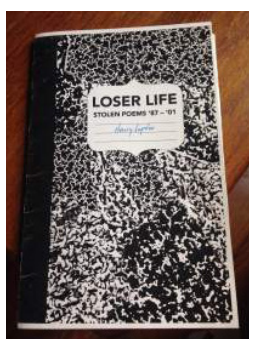
Andy Warhol, I Like Dance, oil on masonite, 1948, Collection of the Paul Warhola Family (Photo credit: James Warhola)

Abby's uncle, artist/illustrator Jamie Warhola, recently made a trip to Florida, where he interviewed children's book author and artist Lenny Kessler for the film. He explains that Kessler was "one of my uncle's classmates and dear friends from those early days.

Continued on page 23

(Left) Abby Warhola, Selfie
(Photo credit: Courtesy of the Artist)
(Above) Jamie Warhola
(Photo credit: Courtesy of the Artist)

Henry Gepfer *cont'd*



ent names: Punks, hippies, hipsters, loners, Holden Caulfields. "The definition is elastic," he admitted.

What surprised Gepfer with this project, which he described as "a funny thing to do at first", is how personal some of the poems became. "They spoke a lot about the things I've been through, or the things I feel…it isn't exactly what I want to do, but that's how it ended up," said Gepfer. He stopped thinking about the words as song titles. As a reader, this is how I started to feel after a few pages as well; I forgot the collage and connected to the message.

If you want to grab a copy of Loser Life, you can check out Gepfer's site, peruse the zine shelf at DECA in Lancaster, or just email him at lgepfer@gmail dot com.

Read more interviews, reviews, and news about the local literary community by visiting thetrianglepa.com, where you can also find a calendar with a complete list of literary events happening in the south central region. Info: thetrianglepa@gmail.com

Central PA Womyn's Chorus Celebrates With 20th Anniversary Concert

The region's only all-female, gay and supportive chorus announces their Coming of Age concert to memorialize 21 years of performance, celebration and community-building. The concert is Sat., May 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 300 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg. A reception follows the concert.

Under the direction of the talented director Jordan R. Markham, who trained at the Peabody Conservatory, the chorus will perform a variety of favorites from concerts past. The songs selected range from the rhythmically complex and vocally challenging "How Can I keep From Singing" and "The Marriage of Figaro," to the melodic and moving "Finally Here" and "Will The Circle Be Unbroken," a longtime chorus favorite with audiences.

"Our first 20 years have been an incredible growth experience," says Cynthia Swanson, CPWC President, "allowing us to be celebrants of history as its being made. We strive to live our mission, every time we meet."

The chorus is recognized for musical excellence in a wide range of styles, including classical, folk, jazz, a cappella, rounds, show tunes and popular songs of the 20th Century and has performed across the continent, including: Montreal's GALA Festival in 2004, San Diego Sister Singers Festival, and locally at the Pennsylvania State Museum for the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network, 20th anniversary celebration of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and as the opening act for Holly Near and backup singers for Judy Collins at her Christmas 2000 concert.

For concert and ticket information, call (717) 564-0112; www.cpwchorus.org; cpwc@lucytv.net

Performing at Lancaster Pride.

Arts in the Garden at the PA Governor's Residence

25 YEARS LATER

Heather Still Has Two Mommies

By Winnie McCroy
Central Voice NYC Correspondent

On March 29 at Brooklyn's Powerhouse Arena in DUMBO, author Lesléa Newman, with illustrator Laura Cornell and Gay Parent Magazine editor Angeline Acain, came together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the groundbreaking children's book, "Heather Has Two Mommies." The book has been streamlined and modernized, with full-page color illustrations, but the story remains the same.

"I'm just thrilled that 'Heather' keeps on going strong and that a whole new generation is going to be able to enjoy it," Newman told *Central Voice*. "Now it's more celebratory, celebrating everything that has happen in the 37 states and the District of Columbia that legalized gay marriage. It's a whole new world for Heather's peers. It's great for kids with two moms to see a family like theirs and it's great for kids who don't to see this diversity."

Newman is the author of more than 60 children's books, including "October Mourning: A Song For Matthew Shepard." This former poet laureate from New Hampshire has won the James Baldwin Award for Cultural Achievement for her many stories that deal with LGBT families and diversity, such as "Mommy, Mama and Me" and "Daddy, Papa and Me."

Newman said that she was walking down the street in Northampton, the 'lesbian capital of the world' when a woman approached her asking for a book she could read her daughter that reflected their family.

"I knew just what her daughter felt like not seeing a family like hers in a book, because when I grew up, there were no Jewish children in the books I read," said Newman. "So even though I grew up in Brooklyn surrounded by Jewish families, I never saw a book with a family like mine. I asked my parents, 'Why can't we have Easter eggs or a Christmas tree; what's wrong with us?' No child should feel something is wrong with their family."

Looking back, Newman admitted she was naïve about what it took to make this happen. She put out a call for donations, promising to send each person who donated $10 a copy of the book when it was published. She raised $4,000, wrote and printed 4,000 copies of the book, and sent half of them out to her funders. Later, Alyson Publications picked up the book.

The story looks at Heather, a young girl with two mommies, a doctor and a carpenter. When she starts school, Heather's teacher Miss Molly asks the students to draw a picture of their family. Some children have a mom and dad, others have two dads or two moms, some have one mom and a brother, and some have a grandma and two puppies. Heather learns that every kind of family is okay, as long as it's filled with love.

It's hard to imagine now the controversy that this children's book created when it first came out in 1988. Newman couldn't.

"I didn't think anyone would care about this book," said Newman. "Well, I thought lesbian moms would be happy to have a book their kids could bring into show and tell, which didn't always go over so well. But this showed me that children's books can really have an impact."

"Heather Has Two Mommies" created a firestorm. School boards sent out letters to parents saying their kids would be taught about sodomy. Libraries filed them in the LGBT section, or illegally (as in a case in Texas), in a separate section. As the first lesbian-themed children's book ever published, The American Library Association ranked it the 11th most frequently challenged book in the U.S.

"The '90s was a bad year for poor Heather. She was burned, banned, stolen, had the pages glued together and was defecated on—all kinds of horrible stuff," said Newman. But the controversy only served to further publicize the book. For every copy of "Heather" that was stolen or defaced, twice as many replacements were donated to the library.

But parents and kids responded positively, as well. One little girl wrote to Newman thanking her, saying, "I know that you wrote it just for me." A boy named Nick crossed out 'Heather' and wrote his name instead. Popular media also picked it up and ran with it, with "Heather" parodies appearing on "The Simpsons," "Gilmore Girls" and "Best in Show."

In the 25 years that have passed, Newman has become a better writer. She shortened and tightened the book accordingly. In the old edition, when Heather realizes she may be the only kid in her class without a daddy, she cries. The new version just has her wondering, allowing children to figure out how they feel about it.

The new illustrations also add a lot to the book, showing Heather's home and family, her dog and cat, and her two mommies, complete with wedding rings indicating that they are doing everything they can to ensure they have all the legal rights and protections to guarantee that Heather is safe in the world. Although Newman didn't have approval over these illustrations, she was very happy with the result.

"I think the old version looks dated; the illustrations didn't reflect today's families," said Newman. "In the new book, I love that on every page Heather is wearing her signature purple cowboy boots. And it's very clear Heather's moms love her. I'm pretty sure she picked out her own outfit; not many moms would dress their kid in an orange and red striped T-shirt, a pink tutu and blue shorts. It's shows that the moms' love and respect Heather's individual fashion sense."

As for Newman, she continues to write children's books, pushing the envelope and broadening the horizons of the children of today. She doesn't court controversy; nor does she shy from it. Newman sees the book as either a mirror, reflecting your family, or a window, allowing you to see how other children live.

"I'm not a fearful person; if I was, I wouldn't be able to write the kinds of books I write. I didn't set out to write a controversial book, I wrote a book that became controversial," said Newman. "But I think we do live in a different world now, and I've chosen not to have a foreword or afterword as in the old edition. I thought that Heather didn't need a validation or explanation. She had nothing to prove. It is just a book about a certain kind of family in the world of children's literature."

To order the new edition of "Heather Has Two Mommies," visit http://www.amazon.com/Heather-Has-Mommies-Leslea-Newman/dp/0962278904

Hear Me Out:

MADONNA

Rebel Heart

By Chris Azzopardi

Like a virgin, Madonna is pure again. Cleansed of the unbecoming trend grabs that marred the icon's erratic predecessors – namely the sinfully juvenile *Hard Candy* and *MDNA*, better but still pastiche – our Blessed Goddess steps back into her ray of light and applies a new shine to an old sound.

For once, Madonna doesn't keep nostalgia at bay. In fact, during *Rebel Heart*, her most sophisticated release since 2005's *Confessions on a Dance Floor,* she keeps wistfulness close by. The result is tangled, tortured but shockingly authentic, as she basks in all the heyday glory that earned the Michigan dreamer her seat and, eventually, a crown. Whatever life's done to Madonna lately – the kids are growing up; Madonna's growing up – she and *Rebel Heart* are better for it.

Witnessing the 56-year-old in self-reflection mode, à la *Ray of Light* and *American Life,* is refreshing, and also, despite Madonna's refusal to actually age, befitting. She holds your hand during the perseverance paean "Ghosttown," a surging mid-tempo with a melancholic narrative reminiscent of "This Used to Be My Playground." The world hurts, Madonna muses, but love heals. The song is a pillar of hope, a theme recycled during the uplifting "Hold Tight"; like a hug as she reluctantly sends her children out into this "mad world," Mother Madonna is reassuring – "hold tight; everything's gonna be all right" – over a sonic spill of rumbling drums and electronic fuzz. Harnessing an organic energy that's been noticeably lacking from the fabricated Pharrell-produced pop confections of her most recent efforts, "Rebel Heart" gets into the groove by recapturing the rawness heard particularly on the under-appreciated "American Life". "Body Shop" encapsulates that quality best, the sexy innuendo taking a backseat to the very modest, Indian-influenced folk vibe. Her voice wispy and mesmeric, Madonna sounds like she's leading a yin yoga retreat.

Less effective are Madonna's unabashed attempts at relevancy, when the sexual provocateur essentially parodies her own cone-wearing self on "Holy Water," an exercise in excess. Have all the sex you want, Madonna. And by all means, make that pole your bitch. But album-audible moaning? Equating your bits to a Baptismal liquid? Love you, lady, but this just might be a good time to retire the fornication-fueled religious allegories.

The even weaker, slinky bedroom-bumper "S.E.X" doesn't even bother with thinly veiled metaphors (at one point she randomly drops "raw meat" like an afterthought) as she promises to "take you to a place you will not forget," but then she doesn't. And poof. Gone.

Most memorable about "Rebel Heart" is Madonna as a messenger of love, unity and peace – "the sorcerer down in the deep," as she puts it on the deluxe edition's penultimate powerhouse "Messiah." There's an ease about Madonna during these moments of musing, where she looks inward and sends her light outward, and the crown, though briefly, comes off. The ego is disbanded. For once, whether we like it or not, the icon, the diva, the high priestess of pop – she's real. "I can't be a superhero right now / Even hearts made of steel can break down," she laments on "Joan of Arc," a surprisingly direct acknowledgement of facets that have, particularly as of late, evaded the star's essence: sensitivity, candor and sincerity.

It all comes full circle with the title track "Rebel Heart," the closer. A blast from the past, a content Madonna recounts the trail she blazed for herself – and, obviously, others – through fierce determination and, you know (and she knows), by being a "narcissist." Madonna's *Rebel Heart* album is the nearly lifetime-long result of broken boundaries and bravado – and, for the first time in 10 years, it's beating stronger than ever. ***Grade: B***

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service.

Warholas *continued from page 21*

He's 93 now, was a war vet, but older than most. It was his apartment on 34th and Lexington that he gave to Andy and Julia; they spent about five years there before moving to 89th and Lex." Prior to that, in the past year and a half, Jamie was invited to the Pera Museum in Istanbul and the new Pop Art Centre in Prague, where two major Warhol exhibits were held. In conjunction with those, he did interviews, lectures, art workshops for children, and book-signings, and showed some of his original watercolor illustrations from his two books on Andy. And for the opening on February 1, 2014, he, Abby, and Jesse traveled to the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo for the last stop of the traveling exhibition Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal, a retrospective that toured Asia:

The Warhol Museum co-curated that show and they wanted to borrow the family's Double Marilyn painting. It was the first time a painting the family owned was put into a major international retrospective of Andy's work, so it was really a thrill. It looked wonderful on a wall of its own up against a larger Elvis. We had the opportunity to go to the opening, and it was great, but very different from American openings--more reserved, with lots of speeches; I was asked to say a few words. Despite the contrast with our lifestyle in the US, Uncle Andy has really reached every corner of the globe.

Also an artist, Abby's mother Madalen (Andy's niece, Jamie's sister), whose media include silk-screening and pysanky (the eastern European folk art of decorating eggs with the wax-resist method of encaustic), says that a life in art is nothing new for the Warholas, it crosses over generations in her family:

We all did art projects at the kitchen table as kids; I don't know if it was for Uncle Andy or if it was 'Bubba' just trying to keep us busy . . . we always did flowers and crafts for her. I was five and she would put us at the stove to make pysanky eggs.

In relation to the upcoming film, Abby emphasizes: "I think it's important for audiences to realize that Andy's family roots shaped him. He came from a very creative family and their blue-collar work ethic is something that resonated with him throughout his entire career." For more information on Andy and the Warholas, visit the family's website, The Andy Warhol Family Album, at http://warhola.com/.

Photo credit from page 21;
Uncle Andy, an upcoming film by Abby Warhola and Jesse Best *(Photo credit: James Warhola, 1975)*
James Warhola, Uncle Andy's, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2003 *(Photo credit: Courtesy of the Artist)*
James Warhola, Uncle Andy's Cats, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009 *(Photo credit: Courtesy of the Artist)*

Out of Town:

BY ANDREW COLLINS

There aren't many places in the United States that suggest romance more palpably than the jewel of southeastern lowcountry, Charleston. This beautifully preserved bastion of pre-Colonial commerce lies at the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper rivers and is flanked by barrier islands famed for gated golf resorts and swanky condo complexes. Inland, you'll find some of the most over-the-top plantation homes, many of them now open for tours. But it's the city's historic heart, with its palm-shaded lanes and pastel-hued 18th- and 19th-century residences, churches and converted shipping warehouses that provide visitors with the uncanny sensation that they're strolling through a fairy tale.

What may surprise, either if you're a first-time visitor or you haven't been in the past decade or so, is that this rather button-down, traditional city of about 120,000 – the cultural heart of one of the country's most politically and socially conservative states – has a pronounced gay scene. Since same-sex marriage was legalized statewide in November 2014, the wedding-centric city has also hosted more than its share of gay nuptials and honeymoons.

Perhaps even more surprising is the recent ascent of Charleston (charlestoncvb.com) among the ranks of farm-to-table foodies, craft-beverage aficionados, edgy artists and hipsters. The northern end of downtown, particularly along Upper King Street, contains one of the coolest concentrations of chef-driven, locavore-minded bars and restaurants of any small city in the country. If you're in town for the weekend, do make a point of visiting the traditional attractions: the opulently decorated house-museums, antebellum churches and prominent military historic sites. But also set aside time to check out the new, independent-spirited side of this dynamic metropolis.

Friday Night

Stick around downtown your first night, supping at one of the dozens of superb restaurants in the central core, many of them set in historic homes. One favorite for both the stunningly prepared modern Southern fare and the gorgeous location inside a glorious 19th-century mansion is Husk (huskrestaurant.com), the domain of James Beard–winning chef Sean Brock. The farm-to-table menu changes often but has included buffalo-style pig's ear lettuce wraps with spiced peanuts, and slow-cooked heritage pork with red peas, farro and smoky tomatoes.

If it's late in the evening, and you're more in the mood for an expertly poured craft cocktail and some lighter snacks, venture into the cozy and hip Gin Joint (theginjoint.com), which serves delish cheese plates and tasty snacks like duck empanadas and hoisin-glazed pork buns. The Card Shark cocktail, with Mata Hari Absinthe, Fernet and smoked honey will warm your soul on a cool evening.

Saturday

Spend the better part of your first full day in town touring the downtown historic district. You might begin with a visit to the Historic Charleston Foundation, which sponsors several renowned events, including late spring's famed Spoleto Festival, and operates such noteworthy museums as Aiken-Rhett House and the Nathaniel Russell House. From the latter you can stroll to nearby Waterfront Park, with gardens and a promenade overlooking the Ashley and Cooper rivers.

Walk north along Meeting Street, known as Charleston's "Museum Mile," and you'll find one iconic attraction after another. The Charleston Museum, which opened in 1773, is a must, as are the gallery-hopping and shopping along Meeting, King and Bay streets. For a high-octane caffeine pick-me-up, drop by Collective Coffee (collective-coffee.com), a sleek, contemporary café serving single-origin pour-over coffees, along with a good variety of sandwiches, wraps and salads.

As sun falls over Charleston, plan an evening of exploring the city's emerging restaurant row along Upper King Street. You'll find some cool touring and tasting opportunities in this part of the city, too, including High Wire Distilling, where you can sample acclaimed spirits, like Silver Rum, Hat Trick Extraordinarily Fine Botanical Gin and Quarter-Acre Sorghum Whiskey. And at the upper end of the neighborhood two craft breweries are worth a visit, Palmetto Brewing Co. (palmettobrewery.com) and Revelry Brewing Co. (revelrybrewingco.com).

A fun way of approaching the novel food scene on Upper King is by making a progressive meal out of the evening, stopping at a few hot spots, and enjoying an appetizer or two – along with drinks – at each one. Start at Kudu Coffee and Craft Beer (kuducoffeeandcraftbeer.com), which specializes in two of Charleston's favorite artisan beverages. Then move up King Street to O-Ku Sushi (o-kusushi.com), which serves both inventive sushi rolls as well as sashimi, crudo, green tea soba noodles and other izakaya-inspired treats; and the amusingly named Closed For Business (closed-4business.com) "draught emporium," another top spot for interesting brews as well as decadent snacks, like poutine, beer-battered fish-and-chips and fried pork-cutlet sandwiches.

At see-and-be-seen Macintosh (themacintoshcharleston.com), sample the exceptional farm-to-table cooking of talented chef Jeremiah Bacon. The artful plates include a salad of fried duck skin with Asian pears and candied-ginger vinaigrette, and sautéed scallops with sunchokes and Brussels sprouts. Located in a landmark bank building, The Ordinary (eattheordinary.com) is a gorgeous space serving beautifully arranged portions of fresh seafood. Consider the Jonah crab toast with lemon and basil, and shad roe with bacon, potato and oyster mushrooms. Right next to High Wire, the Butcher & Bee (butcherandbee.com) is fun both for lunch or late-night (open on Friday and Saturdays only) snacking and drinking. This high-ceilinged space turns out addictively tasty fare from pulled-squash barbecue sandwiches to fried chicken with roasted tomatoes, garlic mayo and dill-verde sauce.

The neighborhood is also home to a pair of popular gay nightspots, the intimate and friendly Dudley's Pub (dudleysonann.com), where you can watch videos, shoot pool and mingle at a conversation-friendly decibel level, and nearby Pantheon (clubpantheon.net), a pulsing dance club open on weekends only. Although not specifically gay establishments, urbane and trendy bars like the retro-cool Belmont (thebelmontcharleston.com) and the endearingly dive-y Recovery Room Tavern (recoveryroomtavern.com) are fun hangouts for kicking off or winding down the evening, and they both draw diverse crowds.

Sunday

Start the day by crossing the modern Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge to Mount Pleasant, a suburb just east of the city with a lovely historic district. Enjoy brunch at Charleston's Cafe (charlestonscafe.com), which is set in a prosaic shopping center but serves anything-but-ordinary morning edibles, including lowcountry shrimp and grits with eggs, and a Southern Benedict with fried-green tomatoes and smoked bacon.

Mount Pleasant is a good jumping off point for exploring Boone Hall, one of the prettiest of the region's grand plantation museums and gardens, as well as the beaches of Sullivan's Island and historic Fort Moultrie, which is part of Fort Sumter National Monument. If plantation touring is high on your list of priorities, you might consider an alternate Sunday plan of driving northwest of the city along Hwy. 61 (Ashley River Road), where you can tour such legendary antebellum estates as Ashley Hall, Drayton Hall, Magnolia Plantation, and Middleton Place, which boasts the oldest formal gardens in the nation.

If you've spent the afternoon at Boone Hall or Sullivan's Island, backtrack to downtown Mount Pleasant for a stroll through the relatively new Shem Creek Park, a stunning wetland sanctuary traversed by more than 2,000 feet of boardwalk. Adjacent to the park, Vickery's (vickerys.com) is an enjoyable place to wrap up your walk. This gay-friendly bar and grill has stunning water views, making it a favorite spot for watching the sunset and sipping a cocktail accompanied by, perhaps, a bowl of Vickery's signature oyster bisque.

The historic village of Mount Pleasant is also home to one of the most romantic restaurants in the region, the Old Village Post House (mavericksouthernkitchens.com/oldvillageposthouse), which is part of the same illustrious group behind stellar eateries like High Cotton and Slight North of Broad. This handsome old inn also contains six charming, reasonably priced guest rooms. Weekend brunch and nightly dinner are both outstanding here, with dishes like Memphis dry-rubbed, bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin, and salt-and-pepper fried shrimp with smoky-blue sauce.

Where to Stay

One of Charleston's most playful and interesting accommodations, the Vendue >

Indiana Law: Local Responses cont'd from page 1

Act in 2002. The law applies to individuals, churches and tax-exempt organizations. Indiana's law applied to for-profit businesses too. (See - *How Pennsylvania's Law Differs from Indiana Law*)

For example, in mid-April Brian Klawiter, owner of Dieseltec auto repair in Grandville, Michigan said he would not hesitate "to refuse service to an openly gay person or persons." He posted the statement to his company's Facebook page. "Our rights as conservative Americans are being squashed more and more everyday. Apparently if you are white (or close to it), you have a job, go to church, and own a gun... That translates into racists, privileged, bigot, conspiracy theorist. Too many of us say nothing. ... I am a Christian. My company will be run in a way that reflects that. Dishonesty, thievery, immoral behavior, etc. will not be welcomed at MY place of business. (I would not hesitate to refuse service to an openly gay person or persons. Homosexuality is wrong, period. If you want to argue this fact with me then I will put your vehicle together with all bolts and no nuts and you can see how that works.)" That is the effect RFRAs can have when their language applies to for-profit companies.

Another contrast between Pennsylvania and Indiana is that newly-elected Pennsylvania Gov., Tom Wolf early in his administration expressed support for LGBT inclusive policies. When commenting on Indiana's law he said that equal protection was "absolutely essential" moving forward.

Local reaction

"While the actions of the state of Indiana were certainly disappointing to say the least, the business community made a powerful and inspiring statement that underscored the importance not only of LGBT inclusion in business, but also of civic and political engagement," Harry Young, president, Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce told *Central Voice*.

Young thought that "businesses took a firm stand, highlighting the economic impact of the LGBT community, and made a case for equality based on both justice and sustainable prosperity."

Businesswoman Carla Christopher-Waid, who is lead organizer for York Equality Fest, said the "Every forward movement in the march for equality has been met with a desperate and passionate backlash from frightened conservatives seeking to maintain whatever foot, toe or claw hold they can to still maintain what was." Christopher-Waid cites "the fear so clearly motivating this legislation shows how far we have come." She also notes passage of the law "serves to remind us not to be complacent. That we as freedom and equal rights activists are battling centuries of prejudice and that we have to systematically dismantle and rebuild an entire culture before we can rest comfortably."

Could Pennsylvania's General Assembly conceivably pass such a law?

"I think, given the current makeup of the Pennsylvania House and Senate, that yes, such a law could be passed in our state. It gives me great hope, however, that our governor, a successful businessman and vocal ally to the LGBT community, would come to our support and veto any such law," Young hopes.

Christopher-Waid says, "I would pray that such a law could never make it past the individuals charged with upholding freedom, justice and liberty for all American people, but I think such optimism would be dangerously naive."

If the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed such a law, do you think the Pennsylvania business community would rush in to support LGBT civil rights like they did in Indiana?

Young is "confident that the business community in Pennsylvania would take a stand to support the LGBT community, much as it did in Indiana." There are two LGBT chambers of commerce in Pennsylvania, one in the region and one in Pittsburgh. "In general, the business community has been far quicker to support LGBT individuals - to lead the charge on - social change than has our government."

"I truly believe they would" pass such a law in Pennsylvania Christopher-Waid said.

When she and a host of others organized last year's first York Equality Fest, a festival celebrating marriage equality, "we expected at least a certain amount of backlash. It never came," Christopher-Waid said.

"What did come was the enthusiastic support and active participation of our business community and our neighborhoods," she explained.

"Pennsylvanians are a strong and passionate group of hardworking and practical people. Just let us be. Most of us come out all right in the wash," Christopher-Waid concluded.

Literally hundreds of business, educational, entertainment, tourism, economic development and elected officials from across the country rushed to express their dismay over Indiana's law.

Stephen King said of the Indiana law, "You can frost a dog turd, but it's still a dog turd.".

Martin forecasts at press time that "We are expecting to see bills introduced in the Pennsylvania statehouse in the next few weeks that will make sure gay and transgender people will have the same opportunities available to them as everyone else." He is hopeful that "we will have more bipartisan support than ever before and we are optimistic that the measures will pass this session."

LGBT community center coalition

By Louie Marven
Executive Director

New and expanded programs at the Center

For years, Common Roads has meant a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning young people ages 14-22. Since Common Roads, previously a standalone youth-serving organization, merged with The LGBT Center in 2009, this age group has been our consistent definition of "youth."

That definition changed this March, as Common Roads program has been expanded to serve the more targeted needs of "youth and young adults."

Common Roads Young Adults is a new group that has started meeting at the center on Sundays from 3-5 pm. This group is open to LGBTQ young adults ages 18-25. I am thrilled to be able to move the maximum age of participation to 25 for this group, since we have received numerous phone calls and emails asking for resources like Common Roads for people who are in their early 20s.

The Common Roads Youth group in Harrisburg will be open to LGBTQ youth ages 14-17 starting in March. (Active youth participants who turn 18 during the school year will also be welcome to continue participating in the group.) This group will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm at the center.

There have been no changes made to Common Roads Lancaster, which continues to provide social and educational programming to LGBTQ youth and young adults ages 14-22 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster. This group meets on Fridays from 7-9:30 pm.

Let's Talk

The center has also been exploring limited-run programs, after the success of the Let's Talk study circle on race and racism held in September and October 2014 in partnership with YWCA of Greater Harrisburg, which took place of six weekly sessions.

One such group was one we held in March for transgender youth ages 14-18, which met for five weekly sessions as a supplemental Common Roads youth program. Seven youth participated in this group, and we hope to replicate the program in the future. On the other end of the age spectrum, Aging with Pride programming explored end of life planning in a four week series. Twenty LGBT seniors participated in this series, in partnership with Hospice of Central PA.

Finally, another exciting partnership is with FORGE, which has brought its Espavo Photo Narrative Project to The LGBT Center Gallery. FORGE encourages trans people and loved ones who have experienced sexual violence to take part in this photographic and narrative project, with the goal of increasing personal healing and empowerment, and offering strength and hope to the community.

Check out the project as it hangs in the gallery through May 13, and stop in for the May 5 Women's Group session during which Espavo Project Coordinator Katie Taylor will use the exhibit to lead a discussion on sexual violence in the trans communities. Espavo photographer Leigh Houghtaling will be present at this session to take a portrait of anyone who would like to participate in the project.

The mission of the LGBT Center of Central PA is to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through educational, cultural, and community activities that foster wholeness.

Charleston continued from previous page

Inn (thevendue.com) occupies a few connected 18th-century warehouse buildings near Waterfront Park and bills itself "Charleston's Art Hotel" – there's even an artist-in-residence program. The distinctive rooms feature original, often abstract contemporary works; many have large walk-in showers and gas fireplaces. Be sure to pop up to the sunny Rooftop for a cocktail, and to soak up some of the best views in the city.

The stately mid-19th-century Mills House–A Wyndham Grand Hotel (millshouse.com) is a pink beauty that rises seven stories above the central intersection of Meeting and Queen streets. The classic but contemporary rooms sparkle with Charleston-inspired reproduction antiques and modern perks like 36-inch LCD TVs and ergonomic work desks and chairs; some rooms have balconies, and others have French doors that open to the stunning hotel pool and sundeck. Enjoy breakfast in the sunny Fountain Courtyard of the Barbadoes Room restaurant, which is also a romantic venue for dinner and drinks.

The city has a few gay-owned B&B, including 4 Unity Alley (unitybb.com), a gem hidden down a tiny alley off historic Bay Street. This 18th-century former colonial warehouse contains airy, light-filled rooms with fine antiques. Keep in mind that the four guest rooms here often book up quickly, so it's wise to book well in advance.

Another of the swankiest addresses in town is the romantic Market Pavilion Hotel (marketpavilion.com), which is close to the riverfront and abounds with cushy furnishings and fine artwork. Grill 225 turns out delicious lowcountry steak and seafood. Around the corner, the five-story Harbourview Inn (harbourviewcharleston.com) is a handsome property with soaring ceilings, exposed-brick walls and four-poster beds (many accommodations overlook the Cooper River).

Andrew Collins produces the site GayTravel.About.com and contributes to many other travel magazines and websites.

Pride 3x's *continued from page 1*

PRIDE FESTIVAL OF CENTRAL PA

Sat., July 25, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. is the date of the 23rd Annual Pride Festival of Central PA. This year's focus is "Onward!" and takes place along Riverfront Park, Harrisburg.

Fri., July 24 is the traditional Voices United Concert, Market Square Presbyterian Church, 20 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg. Admission is $15. The event is a tradition of the Pride Festival since 2006 and represents a musical cantata of various LGBT and allied choral groups of the Harrisburg area.

Sun., July 26, 7 p.m. is Spirits United, Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson St., Harrisburg. Spirits United provides a safe, non-judgmental, non-confrontational outlet for the diverse spiritual and religious expression of the LGBT community along with its friends and allies Pride Festival weekend. Spirits United celebrates the many paths that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and straight take in finding and living out their spiritual lives.

Pride Day Entertainment

Headliner for Pride Festival of Central PA is Antigone Rising, a NYC-based, all-female alternative country rock band known for their LGBT advocacy and their engaging and electrifying live performances featuring foot tapping beats and powerful vocals. They've toured and shared the stage with the likes of Joan Jett, The Rolling Stones, moe, Rob Thomas, Aerosmith, the Allman Brothers and the Bangles. They have performed at Lilith Fair and SXSW and have turned up on the pages of *Curve Magazine, Billboard, Out Magazine, Buzzfeed, AfterEllen* and the *Huffington Post* and had appearances on *The Today Show* and *The Tonight Show,* among others.

Indian Summer Jars will perform for the first time at the Pride Festival of Central PA. Also performing is Octavia, a tight four-piece group that cuts a deep groove, is engaging, fun and entertaining.

Expect to be wowed by Octavia's wicked harmonica playing and sultry powerful vocals. Funktion. hailing from the region, is a fresh band, with a long musical history now playing a hot mix of Old School & New School Funk, R&B, & Classic Rock…Funktion owns the stage, performing hits from The Commodores to Journey, Stevie Wonder to Lynyrd Skynyrd, B.B.King to CeeLo Green, plus a few originals.

Los Monstros is the perfect blend of traditional Latin/Caribbean rhythm with the hottest contemporary styles, designed to appeal to various audiences and make people comfortable getting up and moving to the music. Playing together over the years in various salsa and meringue bands, the members recognized their unique chemistry and decided to embark on a new musical journey together. This is their second time performing at the Pride Festival of Central PA.

Check the event web site for updates and other events throughout the week. The Pride Festival of Central PA is a project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC).

Info: www.centralpapridefestival.com

YORK EQUALITY FEST

York Equality Fest will be held at York's Royal Square, Sun. Aug 2, Noon to 6 p.m. Lead organizer Carla Christopher-Waid describes the event as "an arts and cultural festival held in Downtown York to promote inclusion and sense of community and to celebrate marriage equality and basic equality for all." The event is free and open to the public.

The festival features two stages with speakers, music, dance, theater, poetry, spoken word and performance art as well as live visual art, strolling performers, a fully interactive children's area with games and activities, retail vendors, informational and organizational displays and a variety of international foods.

The day also includes a group wedding which is open to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation and a vow renewal for those wishing to affirm or reaffirm their vows in the Equality Festival setting and new for 2015, a festival wide Japanese Tea Ceremony, to promote peace for all gathered there. The event celebrates full inclusion of all wonderfully diverse citizens in all aspects of civic life, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture of origin, age, gender, gender expression, mental or physical ability, social status, economic status or sexual orientation.

Info: www.equalityfestyork.com/

Open Mike Night

The LGBT Community Center's Open Mic Night is the 4th Friday of each month, 7-9 p.m., $3 cover. The evening features a different artist or artists followed by an Open Mic for anyone who wants to share their work, from veterans to newbies. For March, York's PoemSugar Press released a book in their annual series of sensual poetry. This year the book features an all male cast of poets: Carlos Mason, Thomas "Kwoteman" Tolbert, veteran Baltimore trans activist and performer, Devin Hellfire, and award winning poet, Jack Veasey.

From left: Carlos Mason and Christian Thiede.

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